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Foreword

As we enter the final decade of this century, the importance of formulating and implementing national shelter strategies to meet the goal of shelter for all by the year 2000 cannot be given too much emphasis. One of the steps that UNCHS (Habitat) is taking to help countries achieve that goal has been to host the first subregional seminar on national shelter strategies, held in January/February this year at Nairobi, Kenya.

That event is covered in this issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS, as is the regional seminar in support of local authorities in Central America, a contribution by the Centre towards economic recovery and consolidation of the peace process in that region. At the international level, the Lille International Meeting on "Cities: The Mainspring of Economic Development in Developing Countries?" answered that question in the affirmative, stressing the essential role of towns and cities as engines of development.

Indeed, the international community is coming to see the potentials inherent in urbanization, and it is to emphasize that fact at the national level that "Shelter and Urbanization" has been chosen as the theme for World HABITAT Day this year, 1 October 1990.

Continuing efforts not only on the part of UNCHS (Habitat) but of all involved in the improvement of human settlements can be found in the feature articles, as in the regular sections of the newsletter.

Arcot Ramachandran

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran
Under-Secretary-General
Executive Director

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UNCHS (Habitat) ACTIVITIES

Forty-fourth session of the General Assembly

At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted Section 19 of the Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 1990-1991, which pertains to the regular budget allocations for UNCHS (Habitat), after it had been unanimously approved by the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee.

Another important development was the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities on 30 and 31 October 1989 which pledged a total of $US 2.6 million to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF). (This figure does not include pledges from traditional major donors such as Japan, Norway and the United States of America, which were not yet in a position to announce their pledges at that particular time.) The Governments of France, Jamaica, Lesotho and Sweden increased their pledges at the Pledging Conference, while the Government of Morocco offered its first pledge to UNHHSF.

Permanent Representatives meet in Nairobi

Addressing the Informal Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNCHS (Habitat), the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, reported on 7 December 1989 that the Centre was implementing a record 251 projects in 99 countries with project budgets totaling $US 112 million. He noted important new projects, e.g., in Niger with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), in Senegal with the co-operation of the Federal Republic of Germany, and in Ethiopia, Fiji, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Maldives and Nepal, all with financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Dr. Ramachandran also noted progress on the interregional Urban Management Programme that the Centre is jointly undertaking with the World Bank and UNDP. The latter has agreed to increase its financial support significantly in 1990-1991 so as to strengthen the project core team and expand project activities in the areas of in-country capacity-building and environmental issues in urban management. Inter-agency initiatives were being discussed with the African Development Bank, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund.

Dr. Ramachandran announced a number of subregional policy seminars to promote action-oriented policy discussions among high-level decision-makers on national shelter strategy formulation, implementation and monitoring — the first of which was to be held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi from 29 January to 2 February 1990, for countries of the eastern Africa region. Venues and dates for other subregional seminars had also been set. Participants from the public, private and non- governmental (NGO) sectors would review progress, examine shelter indicators, and consider in detail selected issues of concern in the region.

Among the research and development activities noted by the Executive Director were an Expert Group Meeting examining the potentials of rental housing tenure in improving access to shelter for the poor (Rotterdam, 9-13 October 1989), and another on the incorporation of employment-generating activities in human settlements development programmes (Nairobi, 13-17 November 1989).

Other activities mentioned were the ongoing DANIDA/UNCHS (Habitat) series of training programmes in community participation (Bolivia, Sri Lanka and Zambia) and the Interregional Expert Group Meeting on the Building Materials Industry for Africa and Asia (Nairobi, 20-24 November 1989). The Training Unit courses were also mentioned.

After briefing those present on international meetings such as the UNCHS (Habitat)/FINNIDA regional seminar in Costa Rica (1-3 November 1989) and the international meeting in Lille, France (6- 10 November 1989) on "Cities: The Mainspring of Economic Development in Developing Countries?" the Executive Director mentioned various United Nations meetings reported in earlier issues of this newsletter.

He concluded with an appeal for further voluntary contributions to UNCHS (Habitat). "The amount of voluntary contributions to the Centre is still far too small in comparison with the magnitude of the work which has to be done and indeed, if I may say so, in comparison with contributions made available to other similar global programmes. This is particularly so if the programme for the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 is taken into account. Accordingly, I can think of no better way to conclude this progress report on the work of the Centre than to reiterate the long-standing appeal to governments to consider making (or increasing as may be appropriate) voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation."

UNCHS (Habitat) Executive Director visits Costa Rica

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), paid an official visit to Costa Rica from 30 October to 2 November 1989 following an invitation by the Minister of Housing and Human Settlements of that country.

During the course of the visit, Dr. Ramachandran had the opportunity to hold official meetings with H.E. President Oscar Arias; the Minister of Housing and Human Settlements, H.E. Mr. Fernando Zumbado; and senior officials from the Ministry, as well as with representatives from the State Housing and Mortgage Bank (BANHVI) and the teams of the ongoing UNCHS (Habitat) projects in the country. The Executive Director also addressed the opening ceremony of the FINNIDA/UNCHS (Habitat) Regional Seminar in support of local authorities in Central America. Field visits were made to some of the sites of COS/87/001 "Utilization of bamboo in the construction of social housing" as well as to a number of projects currently being implemented by the Government or by NGOs.

The visit was significant in more than one way: UNCHS (Habitat) is actively promoting regional activities in the context of the Peace Plan for the region which was successfully brokered by President Arias; Costa Rica's achievements in recent years in improving shelter conditions for the poor have been remarkable and provide an example of the major beneficial impact that enabling strategies can have; Costa Rica is also one of the countries carrying on, with support from UNCHS (Habitat) and the Government of Finland, the elaboration of a national shelter strategy and is expected to play a major role in any regional activity to be set up with a view to fostering the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter.

The visit provided a very useful opportunity to discuss in detail all the above issues.

UNCHS (Habitat)/FINNIDA Regional Seminar in Support of Local Authorities in Central America

H.E. the President of Costa Rica cuts the tape at a housing project as the Hon. Minister F. Zumbado, Dr. Ramachandran, and Ophelia de Rubinstein, Deputy Minister of Housing and Human Settlements, look on

H.E. President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, on the extreme front right, with Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat), and H.E. Fernando Zumbado, Minister of Housing and Human Settlements, at the podium

Like many developing countries, those in Central America have inherited from their former colonial administrators a highly centralized structure of government, a factor which has strongly influenced the evolution of their societies, in political, economic and social terms. The current thrust toward the establishment of regional peace in Central America, in which the United Nations system is playing a major role, requires that parallel efforts be made to promote the democratization of national societies, by bringing about greater devolution of power from central authorities and greater local and grassroot participation in decision-making.

Human settlements development has obviously been shaped, to varying degrees in each country of the region, by the centralizing trends in national administrations, and one of the main consequences can be seen in the financial and operational weaknesses of local authorities. Promising trends towards increased devolution of powers are, however, visible across the region — coupled with greater central government awareness of the need to strengthen local action and grassroot development.

It was against this background that UNCHS (Habitat) and FINNIDA organized a Regional Seminar for the five countries of Central America, signatories of the peace plan (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) which was held in San José from 1 to 3 November 1989. Participants in the Seminar were representatives of central government agencies with jurisdiction over municipal affairs, representatives of local authorities, training institutions and NGOs.

The purpose of the Seminar was two-fold: to discuss and analyse the status of local authorities in Central America and the prospects for increased emphasis on local action in management of human settlements development as well as to derive practical strategic advice toward the formulation of a regional programme in support of local authorities. The Seminar highlighted the major potential inherent in mechanisms of local partnership between public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and communities in improving the management and development of human settlements, discussed the role of training institutions and NGOs in strengthening local action and the ways and means to fill the training gap that binds most local authorities to dependence on central government agencies. It concentrated on highlighting areas of action to form part of a regional programme to be submitted for donor funding.

The opening ceremony of the Seminar was attended by the Minister of Housing and Human Settlements of Costa Rica, H.E. Mr. Fernando Zumbado; the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), Dr. Arcot Ramachandran; the UNDP Resident Representative in Costa Rica, Mr. Bruno Guandalini; and FINNIDA's Regional Representative, Mr. Pertti Majanen. A summary of Dr. Ramachandran's speech may be found in the box.

Addressing the Regional Seminar in Support of Local Authorities in Central America, Dr. Ramachandran saw UNCHS (Habitat)'s co-sponsorship (with FINNIDA) of the event as the Centre's first contribution to the **economic recovery and consolidation of the peace process** throughout the Central American region. The lack of adequate shelter and basic services was one symptom of social deprivation and inequities, a deficiency exacerbated by conflicts over the previous decade.

In order to achieve reconstruction and recovery, local authorities would definitely have to be strengthened, particularly in smaller and medium-sized human settlements. Yet they were lacking in shelter resources, deprived of funds, and burdened with a centralist tradition which also took little or no account of public participation in decision-making.

Fortunately, the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) added, supportive legal instruments such as the Laws of Municipal Government were being promulgated in the region. These laws would, he suggested, need to be backed by giving local governments new revenue-raising powers (and adjusting for disparate tax bases), genuine autonomy, training and streamlined administration and management. The foundation would need to be local political and social re-organization, participation and decision-making.

In order to become active agents of development, local authorities would, Dr. Ramachandran added, need to acquire qualities of entrepreneurship to attract investment, identify new local economic growth opportunities, and be able to work successfully with the private sector, including NGOs and community groups, in equal partnership. For that reason, and to make the creation of such a partnership easier, representatives from the public and private sectors and from NGOs were participating in the Seminar.

The sponsors, he concluded by saying, saw the Seminar as contributing to the formulation of a support programme for local authorities in Central America to be launched early in 1990. The exchange of views would lead to the setting of priorities which might then be reflected in that support programme, all within the framework of the economic recovery programme for the region.

Cities: The Mainspring of Economic Development in Developing Countries?

The main consensus of the 200-some experts from developing countries, donors, and international organizations meeting at Lille, France, last November was the essential role of towns and cities as engines of development. Already they accounted for 60 per cent of the developing countries' gross national product (GNP) and 80 per cent of their growth. Representatives of aid- donor countries and international agencies met with experts from developing countries to discuss the focus of international aid. Meanwhile, local elected representatives and officials attended the International Council of the United Towns Organization.

Cités Unies

Ville de Lille

The Lille International Meeting, held from 6 to 10 November 1989, was organized by the Government of France, the United Towns Organization and the City of Lille. UNCHS (Habitat), the World Bank, the Commission of the European Communities and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development served as co-sponsors for this examination of the role of third world cities in promoting sustainable and viable economic and social development — so that international aid programmes might correspond more closely to the needs of developing countries.

The first three days consisted of an open **seminar** for experts from developing countries. This explored the role of cities in economic development and the environmental issues raised by rapid urban growth. The third day was devoted to an assessment of specific urban management issues and to workshop discussions on the management of urban growth in terms of land policies, the management of urban services and infrastructure, and housing policies and financing. In each area, attention was focused on setting up appropriate institutions — in particular the role of local authorities and agencies, the impact of alternative policies on different social groups — with particular attention to lower-income ones, and the relationship with the main economic and environmental themes of the conference. Reports on the two main themes were discussed in plenary sessions under the chairmanship of Dr. Arcot Ramachandran (towns and economic development) and H.E. Mr. Fernando Zumbado, Minister of Housing and Human Settlements, Costa Rica (urban growth and the environment). The UNCHS (Habitat) Urban Management Group also prepared a paper, "Urban growth and the environment". The final, restricted **session** for official donor agencies in the following two days allowed policy-makers from aid agencies to react to conclusions on the main themes of the open seminar, and to discuss ways to develop their policies for sustainable urban development in developing countries.

Dr. Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), delivered the keynote address at the **opening session** which was also addressed by, among others, Mr. Pierre Mauroy, former Prime Minister of France (current Mayor of the City of Lille and President of the United Towns Organization) and by Mr. Thierry de Beaucé, Secretary of State for International Cultural Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. Dr. Ramachandran pointed to the importance of cities and towns in the developing world, which would account over the next decade not only for about two thirds of population growth but also some four fifths of the growth in GNP. Yet, given a rapidly deteriorating environment, they would be hard-put to play their crucial development role. Changes in policy were called for: granting cities decision-making and fiscal autonomy; improving urban management policy and practice; providing a facilitating environment to enable the poor to improve/build shelter; taking into account environmental considerations — for sustainable urban growth.

The **conclusions** of the Lille Meeting were that urban growth lies at the very heart of the development process, and may even play a positive role in certain major problems affecting the world environment and the search for enduring development in these countries, e.g., through slower population growth. Discussions of various workshops stressed the need to focus policies to encourage and stimulate local initiatives of local authorities, municipalities and grassroot organizations. The "Conclusions and Proposals" of the Lille International Seminar — The town as powerhouse of development in the third world — put it this way: "Local initiative alone was thought to be capable of rising to the challenges of the late twentieth century, and that is one of the key aspects of the **linkage between democracy and economic and social development...** International development aid must of necessity pay increasing attention to these **local powers**, while bearing in mind the requirements of national sovereignty and the time-frame necessary for local institutions to emerge, gain strength and flourish. Such institutions are profoundly rooted in the cultural identity of their respective countries. Alongside inter-governmental co-operation, decentralized co-operation between cities and communities will play a growing role, with the aid of municipalities and NGOs. Such co-operation is not only essential in order to exchange experiences on **practical problems** relating to urban management, but also takes on a **political sense** of solidarity, fraternity and mutual respect."

The meeting of aid donors drew the lessons to be learned from countries on the two main themes. Forty participants represented bilateral aid donors, 16 international or regional organizations, while a number of French Ministries and the Caisse Centrale were also represented. Rapporteurs, one in each case from UNCHS (Habitat) presented reports, which were discussed on the second day — with a focus on the actors involved: local authorities, NGOs, and grass-roots communities.

The question "Why should development policies pay more attention to the town?" was answered by looking at its role as the powerhouse of economic and social development, approached in terms of promoting social equity, seeking greater economic efficiency, and the synergy binding town and countryside. As for urban growth and the environment, the need for continuing research was highlighted, as was involvement in the health sector — with particular attention to the problem of sewage and human health, the need for appropriate standards and controls, allowing local groups to get local funds to address local problems, and a consideration of the environmental implications of urban development at four levels: the home and workplace, the neighbourhood, the city, and the region.

The working groups had also tackled the question "What can be done to help?" Broadly shared views were phrased in the following terms:

- Help the towns to invigorate the economy;
- Towards the environmentally conscious town, beginning with the community/local level;
- Stronger local powers aid democracy.

The closing session, attended by all, was chaired by Mr. Mauroy. Speeches were presented by Mr. Fairclough, Special Adviser to the Commission of European Communities; Mr. Wheeler, President of the OECD Development Aid Committee; and H.E. Mr. Pelletier, French Minister for Co-operation.

The proceedings of the Lille International Meeting (including a summary paper presenting the "Lille recommendations") will be published in 1990 by the organizers.

IFHP/CIB/WMO/IGU Conference: "Urban Climate, Planning and Building"

An International Conference on "Urban Climate, Planning and Building" was held at Kyoto, Japan, from 6 to 11 November 1989, jointly organized by the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP) Standing Committee, Working Commission W-71 of the International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation (CIB) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Together with a sub-commission of the International Geographical Union (IGU), it was co-organized by a number of Japanese professional and academic institutions.

The Conference covered a dozen topics (such as urban climate and air pollution, urban climate and building materials, impacts of urban climate on human health) in four different climatic types: cold, temperate, hot-dry and hot-humid. Lectures were supplemented by oral and poster sessions, e.g., on the effects of vegetation.

Professional tours within Kyoto and to Kobe allowed participants to see green spaces and traditional architecture in the former, the protection of buildings and vegetation from sea breezes, and a welfare village including a day-care centre for the handicapped in the latter.

Mr. S. Kuyama, Deputy Administrator of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF) represented UNCHS (Habitat) at the Conference, and delivered an address at the Opening Ceremony.

IFHP International Conference: "Changing Roles for the Public and Private Sectors in Urban Development"

Mr. S. Kuyama, Deputy Administrator, UNHHSF, presented a keynote address of the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) to the International Congress of the IFHP, which met at Chiba, Japan, from 13 to 17 November 1989. The Executive Director noted the need for governments to move towards an enabling role, becoming facilitators of solutions by working with actors from other sectors to make cities more productive in their contributions to sustainable economic and social development. Required policy changes would involve the strengthening of local governments in terms of administrative decentralization, fiscal autonomy and real decision-making powers. At the same time, service provision by the private sector (including NGOS and community groups) offered new possibilities, as did the improvement of infrastructure — which would increase manufacturing efficiency.

To implement these and other ideas, changes were required in the relations between national and local authorities, the public and private sectors. Such changes were being investigated in UNCHS (Habitat) efforts to meet the goal of adequate shelter for all in the not-too-distant future.

Conferences such as the present one would help in charting the new directions that urban development would have to take in the trying decades ahead.

In discussing "public/private sector *co-operation* for investment in and maintenance of urban infrastructure", Mr. S.M. Koesomo of Cipta-Karya, Indonesia noted that *"partnership"* would be a better word to indicate the relationship in a joint undertaking. In Indonesia, he said, the Government looked to the private sector to provide efficiency and a more market-oriented approach, and suggested further areas for partnership through the Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development Programme.

International Meeting: "Impact of Sea-level Rise on Cities and Regions"

An International Meeting on the "Impact of Sea-level Rise on Cities and Regions" was held by the International Centre on Cities on

Water, a Venice-based organization collecting information and researching the experiences of cities and settlements situated on coastlines and estuaries, and island States. The Meeting, held from 11 to 13 December 1989 at Venice, was attended by high-level political personalities, scientists, academics and experts. Speakers at the opening session were the Minister of the Environment of the Government of Italy, Dr. Giorgio Ruffolo; the Dean of the Institute of Architecture of Venice, Prof. Paolo Ceccarelli; and Senator Susanna Agnelli, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and former member of the Brundtland Commission. The bulk of the meeting was the presentation and discussion of case studies, including Alexandria, Boston, Galveston, Hamburg, Hong Kong, Leningrad, Maldives, New Orleans, Osaka, Singapore, Sydney and Venice. These presentations were preceded and accompanied by lectures on global warming scenarios and their possible impact on coastal and marine settlements through sea-level rise and by oral reports on the activities and projects of international organizations, including the European Space Agency (ESA), Organisation for Economic Co- operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNCHS (Habitat), the World Bank, and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Professor Tunney Lee, Head of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, presented a stimulating two-way scenario on "Cities: crisis or planning", based on the hypothesis of a sea-level rise of 50 cm in the year 2050 and the predicament of two cities struck by a high-tide typhoon. Obviously, the one capable of construction, prevention and adaptation would be able to minimize the effects of such an occurrence. But this is just one element of the need for cities to plan for their future, and to weigh long-term investment and controversial land-use and planning decisions against the pressures of day-to-day expediency and unwise development. In this context, the sea-level rise syndrome can greatly contribute to more responsible urban planning and management.

Professor Lee's presentation was a useful introduction to the illustration of options open to cities and settlements in different geographic and socio-economic situations illustrated through the various case studies on risks, plans and policies. Amsterdam, The Hague, Hamburg, Osaka and Venice exemplified cases where the costs of tidal damage,

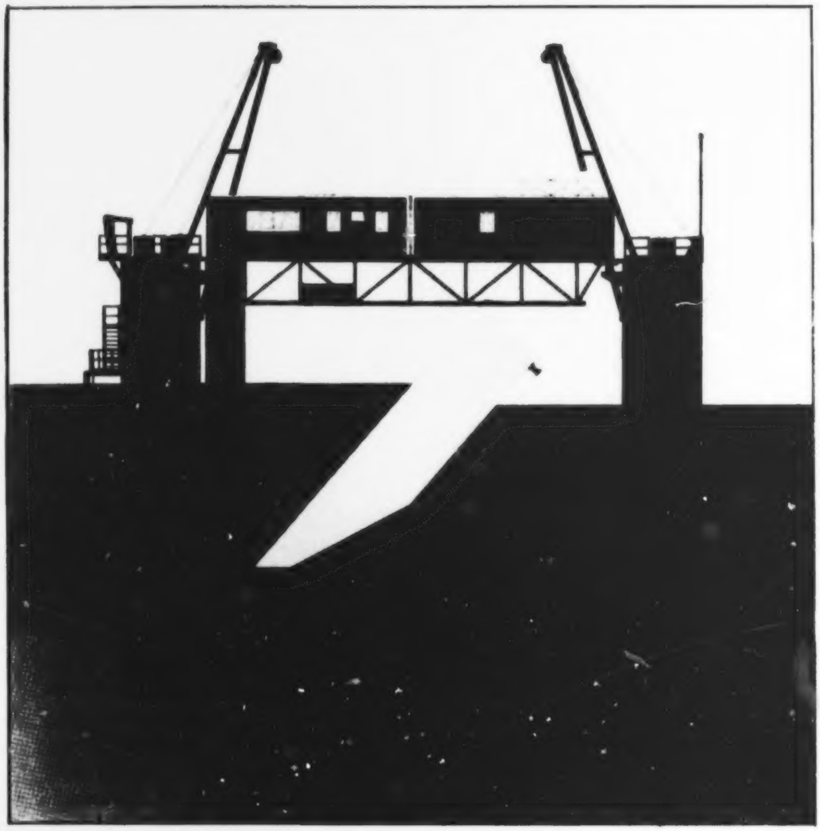


Fig 1

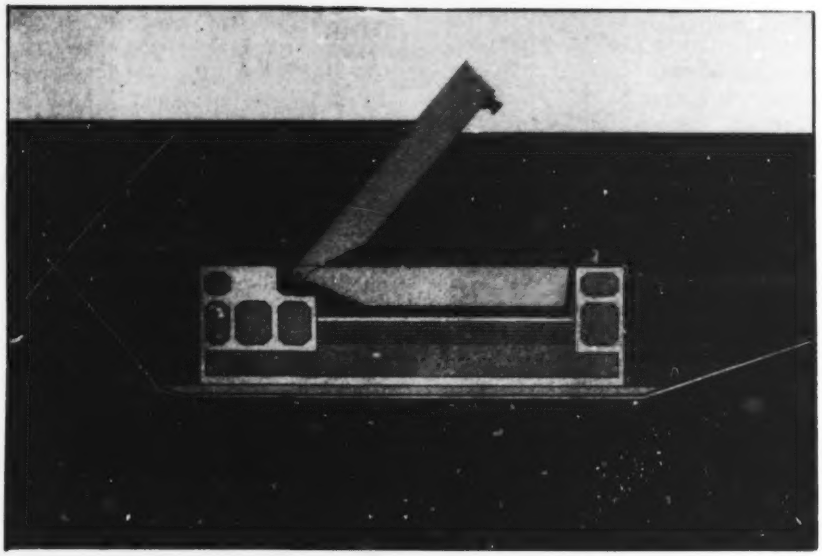


Fig 2

In order to prevent the catastrophic effects of sea-level rises on the city of Venice, the "Venezia Nuova" consortium has developed an experimental module (MOSE) (figure 1) to test a movable gate system capable of protecting the lagoon from the inflow of water from the sea. The plan (see figure 2) is to install a series of caissons on the seabed at the three meeting points between the outer sea and the Venice lagoon. Movable floodgates, hinged on the caissons, would then be raised on command to act as a temporary barrier against the sea, and lowered back to horizontal position in order not to disrupt the delicate balance of Venice's unique ecological system.

having been experienced and assessed, had justified large investments in protection measures and large-scale public works. An interesting discussion ensued on the merits of "soft" versus "hard" solutions. Venice situated itself in an intermediate position. Land subsidence had been checked by the phasing out of large-scale fresh water catchment on the part of inland industrial activities, and the city was experimenting with the first prototype of a movable barrier to be placed across the three main accesses to the lagoon, to be activated only at high tide.

The Maldivian case exemplified a situation of high vulnerability common to a large number of countries in the Pacific and Indian Oceans and the Caribbean Sea where even a modest sea-level rise could bring to crisis point existing threats such as tidal floods, coastal erosion and the depletion of fresh water supply, particularly in densely-occupied areas. An added problem was the lack of indigenous technical expertise and the consequent exposure to packaged, aid-driven solutions based on inappropriate and highly expensive technology.

The draft conclusions and recommendations pointed out that a large percentage of the world's population lived in coastal areas vulnerable to the effects of sea-level rise. Emphasis was placed on "soft" engineering solutions and on the value of actions taken at the local level. There was pressing need, however, to intensify scientific research at the global level and support assistance to those developing countries least equipped with the means to enact adequate prevention and protection. The importance of establishing close co-operation between the Venice Centre and international agencies was stressed in relation to its perceived role as a focal point/clearing house for scientific information, co-ordination of local and world-wide data gathering, convening of special working groups on specific issues, and promotion of case studies.

Mr. Pietro Garau, of UNCHS (Habitat), distributed and read out the message of the Executive Director of the Centre. It outlined the massive costs of preventive and mitigation measures, which give rise to the need for co-operation between members of the global scientific community, governments, NGOs and bilateral and multilateral assistance agencies in pioneering work which would allow human settlements to face climate change and sea-level rise with appropriate tools. A statement was made towards the end of the Meeting to illustrate in greater detail the UNCHS (Habitat) work programme and planned projects in co-operation with other organizations (e.g., UNEP) relevant to the Meeting's topic. The point was made that the whole UNCHS (Habitat) work programme was highly relevant to the purpose of the Meeting since the Centre promoted and supported settlement planning development and management solutions which minimized adverse environmental effects through, for example, the promotion of low-energy-content building materials, guidelines for environmentally-sound settlement planning, and efficient transport solutions designed to optimize mobility and reduce fossil fuel emissions into the atmosphere.

Fifth International Congress on Human Settlements in Developing Countries, Madras

The Fifth International Congress on Human Settlements in Developing Countries was held from 23 December 1989 to 4 January 1990 at Anna University, Madras, India, co-sponsored by the University and by the Centre for Human Settlements (India) of Calcutta. The inaugural session was opened by Dr. V.C. Kulandaiswamy, Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, and was addressed by others engaged in the field of human settlements. The various speakers emphasized the need to consider housing as part of the development process, and laid stress on the fact that despite several attempts made by government and other agencies, neither housing finance nor the technologies developed in low-cost building materials was filtering down to the poorest of the poor. Later this theme was developed in technical discussion groups. Whilst there was some discussion on the role of government as "enabler", others expressed the view that it should be a "provider".

The UNCHS (Habitat) Executive Director's keynote address on "The Role of Technology and Information Systems in Human Settlements" was read out by Mr. G.S. Joseph, UNCHS (Habitat). Following a caution against allowing technology to widen rather than to bridge the gap of opportunity, the Executive Director noted the severe impact of the absence of accurate information bases in the human settlements sector. As a result, UNCHS (Habitat) had initiated a housing information system in collaboration with the Government of Colombia. Its success had led to interest on the part both of other developing countries and of several multilateral institutions. While a number of low-cost technologies suitable to the differing physical, social and economic conditions of developing countries was available, greater dissemination efforts were required. In subsequent discussions, several speakers referred to portions of the address, particularly the need to develop information systems relevant to land and housing.

There were four technical sessions, on Policy issues on urban development and management; Housing; Finance and land; and The role of technology, research and information.

The recommendations of the last group were that:

- Suitable technology options should be widely designated among user agencies;
- Comprehensive research studies on technology, resources, environmental quality and the management of the built environment be undertaken;
- Technology transfer centres be created on a wide scale to propagate the use of locally-available technology; existing academic programmes dealing with human settlements have to be suitably restructured to meet emerging demands;
- Emphasis should be as much on the conservation of existing settlements as on new development;
- Housing typology studies should be undertaken on a regional basis by various institutions and agencies and that they should assist in the formulation of guidelines;
- Detailed assessment should be undertaken of various recommendations on the national housing policy, to ensure that human settlements are seen as viable habitats.

At the final session of the Congress on 30 December 1989, the Centre for Human Settlements, India presented Dr. Ramachandran with a commemorative award for distinguished service rendered by him in the area of human settlements, globally.

The award was presented by the Hon. Mr. Kannappan, Minister for Housing of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Mr. G.S. Joseph accepted the award on behalf of Dr. Ramachandran, thanking the organizers of the International Congress and the Government for the signal honour.

First Subregional Seminar on National Shelter Strategies

Over 40 high-level decision-makers from governments, NGOs and private-sector or-

DIRECTOR
CHAIRMA

Shown at the Subregional Seminar on National Shelter Strategies held at Nairobi are, from left to right, Mark Hildebrand and Darshan Johal of UNCHS (Habitat) and Mr. M.M. Chenga, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Construction and National Housing, Zimbabwe.

ganizations, United Nations and inter-governmental organizations and bilateral and multilateral agencies met at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, from 29 January to 2 February 1990, to evaluate past and present policies and discuss ways and means of designing more effective national shelter strategies. The aim was to enable national governments to meet the broad objective of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS) which is **adequate shelter for all by the year 2000**. The Seminar for Eastern African countries attracted participants from Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Support for this, the first of a series of subregional seminars, came from the Government of Finland/UNCHS (Habitat) Support Programme for Preparing National Shelter Strategies.

Opening the Seminar, Mr. Darshan Johal, Director, Office of Programme Co-ordination, UNCHS (Habitat), said that action at the national level was the key to the implementation of GSS. He underscored the need for each country to develop its own appropriate national shelter strategy and plan of action based on the guidelines contained in the Strategy. The Strategy had considerable significance for African countries, he stated, for it encourages vigorous promotion of self-sufficiency in the shelter sector by making the best use of human and natural resources. The multidisciplinary approach advocated by the Strategy could, he added, be a framework for integrating and advancing national economic and social development objectives.

Three important aspects of the Strategy were presented by UNCHS (Habitat) staff members. Mr. P. Garau, Chief of the Settlement Planning and Policy Section, introduced the **innovative features** of the Strategy. The first was the setting of a specific goal — adequate shelter for all, and the second, the definition of that goal, to be left to governments, which will include, it was hoped, a wide array of shelter solutions. The third innovative aspect was the holistic, comprehensive approach, while the fourth was the enabling approach. Finally, he mentioned the importance of information and communication. Mr. Oscar Gomez-Villa introduced a paper on the concept of **shelter indicators**, which would chart the ongoing performance of the shelter sector — enabling a more reliable and responsive evaluation of past and present policies, and in turn, the design of more effective strategies. While these indicators should be adapted to the needs and conditions of each country, a common set of criteria would be applicable to all national and sub-national contexts. These indicators were discussed both in plenary, and in a special working group, and a revised version of his paper was distributed later. **Technical co-operation activities** in the 1990s, Mr. Mark Hildebrand, Chief of the Technical Co-operation Division, said would focus on three areas: national capacity building, the catalytic role of technical co-operation activities to improve the performance of the shelter sector in addressing the needs of the poor, and the development and in-country use of better analytical tools to increase understanding of the shelter sector and the links between investments in shelter

Mr. Johal shows the UNCHS (Habitat) display to Mr M.M. Chenga as Mr. J. Mungai of UNCHS (Habitat), who served as Secretary to the Seminar, looks on improvement and socio-economic development.

Mr. S. Cheema, Principal Technical Advisor, Bureau of Programme Policy and Evaluation, UNDP, told participants that four priority areas had been identified in UNDP's approach to shelter programmes, based on inputs from governments. These were:

- The need to identify alternate strategies for urban land;
- The need for access of low-income groups to housing finance;
- The need to utilize fully the potential roles of community-based organizations (CBOs) and NGOs and the formal private sector;
- The need to improve further the capacity of government agencies to put the above processes into operation.

Deliberations centred around a number of initiatives being taken on the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies. These included, *inter alia*, linking shelter and economic development policies, restructuring the shelter sector, modifying regulations on building codes, standards and materials, creating incentives to mobilize private-sector and financial institutions to invest in low-income housing for the poor, and managing urban land to enable greater access by the poor to house construction.

Considerable time was also spent on redefining the role of government, the private sector and NGOs in the enabling approach — one of the basic principles of the GSS. To do so, participants divided into three working groups, one for each sector. **Governments** should, they suggested, amend or repeal certain regulations and bye-laws which restrain the development of the housing sector and prohibit participation of the informal sector. They should also play a prominent role in the control of interest rates on loans for housing construction and improvement. Production and utilization of indigenous building materials should be promoted, and land acquisition and tenure systems revised. Training of technicians, professionals and personnel was urged to improve the efficiency and capacity of national shelter-delivery systems.

The role to be performed by the **private sector** included four main areas: land ownership and development, provision of infrastructure, building materials, and finance for housing. With regard to building materials, e.g., the private sector could, *inter alia*, promote local materials in the projects it finances, provide incentives to the groups producing cheap building materials and guidance in the planning of affordable yet acceptable shelter, in particular in developing such housing units by phases.

On the role of **NGOs and CBOs**, the participants underscored the need for government to use the organizations as facilitators in addressing community shelter needs and problems, and to involve them in the formulation of public policies, programmes and strategies in the shelter sector. Linkages, co-ordination of efforts, sharing of information and recognition of the comparative advantages of each sector were given importance.

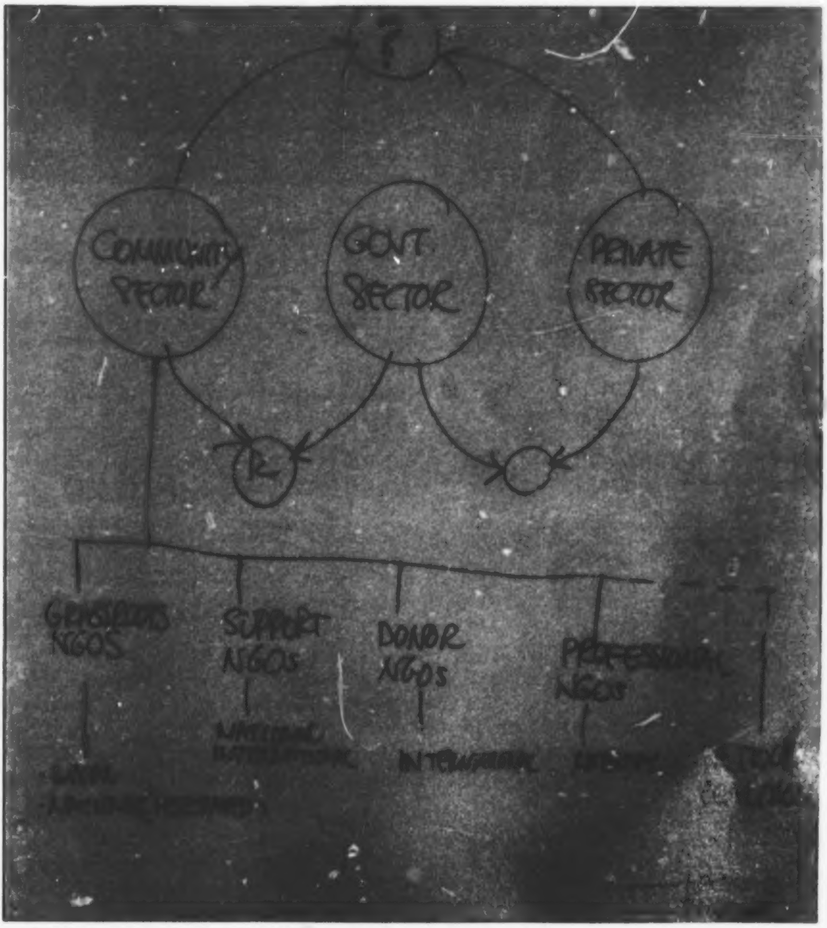
Participants also offered reports on the current initiatives being taken in each of the participating countries towards formulation of national shelter strategies, and on follow-up actions at the national level. Representatives of UNCHS (Habitat), UNDP and USAID/RHUDO (Regional Office for Housing and Urban Development) presented the viewpoint of their organizations on bilateral and multilateral co-operation, as did the Operations Manager of Shelter-Afrique. In the ensuing discussion, they responded to questions from participants.

H.E. Mrs. Pamela Mboya, the Permanent Representative of Kenya to UNCHS (Habitat), attended the final session, where the closing statement was delivered by the Hon. Gideon Mutiso, Assistant Minister of Lands and Housing, Government of Kenya.

The Seminar is the first of a series of subregional policy seminars being organized by UNCHS (Habitat) to stimulate national action on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. Others are scheduled as follows:

Indonesia	14 to 18 May 1990	East Asia
Zimbabwe	6 to 10 August 1990	Southern Africa
USSR	3 to 7 September 1990	Eastern Europe

Other seminars are being planned in consultation with potential host countries.



Model used by the working group on the role of non-governmental organizations

International Conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process in Africa

The Conference, which met at Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, from 11 to 16 February 1990, was the third in a series designed to contribute to the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) and was organizationally supported by the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA). Its stated objective was to provide a forum for dialogue among governments, NGOs, United Nations agencies and peoples' organizations active in African countries to explore together the challenges posed by the participatory approach to Africa's recovery and development efforts.

H.E. the President of the United Republic of Tanzania opened the Conference, which was then chaired by Professor A. Adedeji, the Executive Secretary of ECA. The Executive Secretary stressed that Africa's greatest resource was its people. UNCHS (Habitat) was represented at the conference by Mr. Frank Hammond and Mr. Mathias Hundsalz.

Current development methods and institutions were critically assessed and the ECA plan of action for recovery and development was discussed as an alternative approach. Issues of popular participation were discussed in numerous workshops, e.g., "Promoting indigenous non-governmental organizations as instruments of popular participation", "People's participation and access to resources and services, including media" (of which a UNCHS (Habitat) representative was elected chairman), "Popular participation and challenges of self-reliance" and "Education and training for participatory development". Papers on various topics were also presented and can be grouped in two categories: (a) papers on philosophical, ideological and theoretical considerations; and (b) country experiences on specific cases.

The "Exhibition and Ideas Marketplace", which included a UNCHS (Habitat) exhibition, displayed examples of locally-made handicrafts and art, intermediate technology and documentation on actual experience with popular participation — all of which supported the Conference as a forum for the exchange of views, ideas and experiences of its participants.

UNCHS (Habitat) representatives provided insights into UNCHS (Habitat) knowledge and experience on training in community participation in the plenary and workshop discussions. UNCHS (Habitat) also encouraged discussions on the issue of community efforts in shelter production and in the rehabilitation and strengthening of basic services within the context of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

The adoption of the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation (Arusha 1990) and three resolutions brought the Conference to a close.

UNCHS (Habitat) staff members Frank Hammond and Mathias Hundsalz are shown with H.E. Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

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USSR and UNCHS (Habitat) to co-operate on human settlements planning and development

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and UNCHS (Habitat) have agreed to co-operate further in the improvement and development of human settlements through a variety of joint activities.

In a memorandum of understanding signed on 16 February 1990 on behalf of the USSR by H.E. Mr. E.G. Rozanov, Minister of State and Chairman of the State Committee for Architecture and Town Planning (Goscomarchitecture) and Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), on behalf of the Centre, the areas for co-operation identified are research and development, technical co-operation and information.

According to the programme of activities, the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology (GKNT) and Goscomarchitecture, will, together with UNCHS (Habitat), conduct research related to urban and rural development and environmental aspects of human settlements in selected countries. Technical assistance will be offered to developing countries in research into and the promotion of indigenous building materials, and in the training of human settlements personnel.

In a press briefing on 16 February, H.E. Mr. E.G. Rozanov noted that construction of low-cost structures would be tested first in Kenya for possible application elsewhere. The Government of Angola, for example, had requested assistance in meeting their need for low-cost shelter; possible technologies, he added, would be discussed with UNCHS (Habitat). Thus, preliminary work in these two countries would test structures under different socio- economic and climatic conditions. He noted too the importance of establishing the Habitat Executive Bureau in Moscow, attached to Goscomarchitecture.

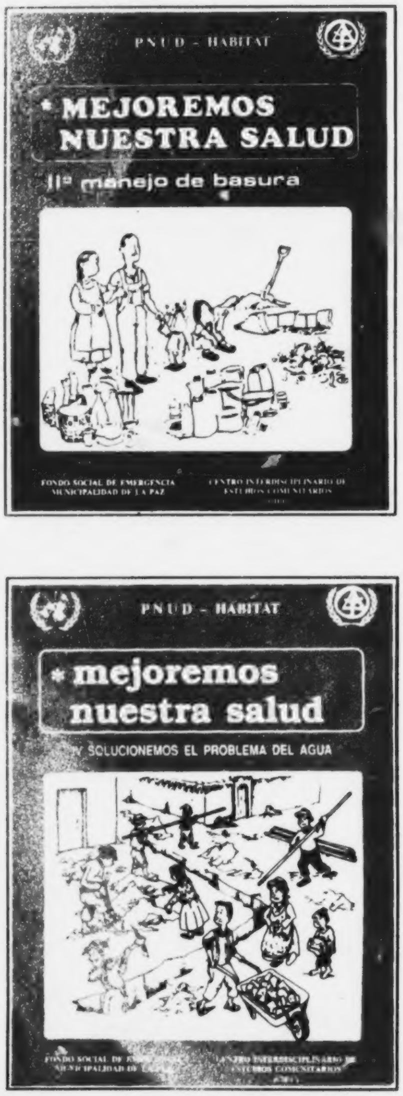
Shown at the press conference at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters are, from left to right, Mr. Ganti Rao of UNCHS (Habitat), Mr. I. Dmitriev, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the U.S.S.R. to UNCHS (Habitat),the interpreter, Mr. A.J. Krols and Mr. D. Johal

H.E. the Minister of Construction of the Latvian S.S.R., Mr. A.J. Krols, talking with Mr. G. Rao, Chief of the Information, Audio-Visual and Documentation Division, UNCHS (Habitat). The interpreter is in the middle.

WORLD HABITAT DAY 1989 update; "Shelter and Urbanization" theme for 1990

Further 1989 activities

Reports on the celebration of World HABITAT Day 1989 continue to be received at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters. We present a sampling of these events to enable readers to see what others are doing and possibly to adapt these activities for their own use in forthcoming commemorations.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* MEJOREMOS NUESTRA SALUD
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PNUD - HABITAT
* mejoremos nuestra salud
IV SOLUCIONEMOS EL PROBLEMA DEL AGUA
CENTRO INTERDISCIPLINARIO DE ESTUDIOS COMUNITARIOS

Examples of the booklets prepared in Bolivia, the second edition of which were printed in Sept 1989 under UNCHS (Habitat)/UNDP projects BOL/88/020 and BOL/87/F05

In **Belgium**, for example, the Katholieke Universiteit - Leuven (KUL) Post-Graduate Centre for Human Settlements organized a special session during the UNCHS (Habitat)/KUL training programme on housing in development. Participants in the programme, key representatives from the Government, research centres and NGOs attended — as did the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), which provided documents. UNIC also provided materials on the Day to a special meeting organized by the Brussels Assembly for the right to housing, while the Belgian daily *Le Soir* published a guest editorial by Mr. M. Gossé of Espace et Coopération, another NGO.

The Minister of Urban Affairs in **Bolivia** handed over the new offices of a UNCHS (Habitat) project on training for community participation in human settlements, while the national project co-ordinator in El Alto, La Paz, where a UNCHS (Habitat) project on urban development is taking place, the mayor and representatives of the Ministers of Health and Urban Affairs emphasized the participation of youth. Four manuals in line with the theme of the Day depicted in cartoon form how to gain better health by improving the domestic environment. The NGO ENDA-Bolivia inaugurated three projects of its own on the occasion of the fourth World HABITAT Day.

Commemoration of the Day in **Burundi** began early, with Days of Reflection on the use of local building materials (25 and 26 September) — including a debate on radio and television. Also prior to 2 October, a visit was organized by the Minister of Rural Development and Artisanry to Muhanga, while the Minister of Public Works and Urban Development presented the national urban housing policy. On World HABITAT Day the Prime Minister and Minister of Planning, H.E. Adrien Sibomana, spoke of the way in which the Government was making possible the attainment of a better habitat for all, among them financial steps.

The Institution of Engineers (**India**) informed UNCHS (Habitat) that the Karnataka State Centre organized a Seminar on "Healthy and Cleaner Human Settlements - The Role of Financial Institutions, Co-operatives and Voluntary Organizations". Held at Bangalore on 2 October 1989, the event also encompassed a low-cost housing technology exhibition, a demonstration of low-cost building materials and components, and a film show. At Madras, a Seminar on "Human Settlements and Environment" was organized by the Only One Earth Campaign — together with a number of other bodies, organizations and institutions, among them the Government of India, the Tamil Nadu Government, the Housing and Urban Development Company (HUDCO), Anna University and the National Housing Bank. The keynote address on behalf of the Government of India was given by Mr. K.G. Sivaramakrishnan. Held on 14 October, the Seminar included sessions on finance and financial institutions, housing and urban development, among them a presentation by L.M. Menezes, Special Officer of the Corporatión of Madras, on the financial resources of the Madras Municipal Corporation.

Under the patronage of the Prime Minister H.R.H. Sheikh Saa'd al-Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, The **Kuwait** Housing Authority celebrated World HABITAT Day, Arab Housing Day and the Fourth Week of Housing from 2 to 8 October 1989. A speech delivered by the Deputy Minister for Housing Affairs, Chairman of the Board of the Housing Authority on Monday 2 October, was broadcast over radio and television and published in the local print media. A short documentary film on housing projects in Kuwait was transmitted by Arab Sat to all Arab television stations on the same date. A week-long exhibition was inaugurated by the Deputy Minister of Housing. Other events included distribution of housing units in several housing projects, and, in collaboration with Kuwait Transport Company, a trip to housing projects for architects, planners and engineers. A special postage stamp was issued on the occasion of World HABITAT Day 1989.

In **the Netherlands**, events for the fourth World HABITAT Day were again organized by the Netherlands Habitat Committee chaired by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. M. van der Stoel. "Cities in the Year 2000: Shelter, Poverty and the Environment" provided the main theme for an important meeting held at the Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam. The keynote address on "Africa's Urban Future Cities in the Year 2000" was provided by Ms. Mary Racelis, UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Nairobi, together with Mr. John J. Shane, also of Nairobi. It suggested seven basic approaches:

A scene from the celebration of 1989 World HABITAT Day in Kuwait

- Recognize the right of the urban poor to a better life;
- Enable them to gain access to basic services;
- Support workers and entrepreneurs in the informal sector, giving particular attention to women;
- Make provision for community-based care of young children;
- Encourage community residents to organize themselves for local decision-making and implementation;
- Strengthen effective urban management skills on the part of city and town officials;
- Organize programmes specifically directed at helping ease the burden of street children.

The University of Technology in **Panama** sponsored a week-long exhibition on habitat and the environment, combined with radio programmes. IPACOOP offered information on the Day and a poster exhibition at the National Meeting of Co-operatives, while housing co-operatives organized a Commission for Habitat Day and appealed for government support for the housing co-operative sector, especially in the area of finance.

In **Paraguay**, the national Government, through the National Housing Council (CONAVI), collaborated with the local representative of the United Nations to put on a special function in which public- and private-sector authorities, representatives of educational and non-governmental sectors also took part. Experts from the UNDP Regional Project studying the problems of Critical Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, the UNIC Director in the country and the World Health Organization representative there all took part. The commemorations of the fourth World HABITAT Day took place at the Paraguayan-Japanese Cultural Centre. Information was disseminated at that function and through other local media (press, radio and television).

H.E. the Prime Minister, Mr. Mohamed Ali Samater, chaired the World HABITAT Day ceremony in **Somalia**. The Acting Director General of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing also spoke, outlining the importance of the occasion and of the theme for 1989. The Prime Minister emphasized the efforts of the Somali Government in developing social services, low-cost housing and local building materials. The UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Osman Hashim, noted joint efforts with UNCHS (Habitat) to assist the Government of Somalia in implementing the national development strategy, such as the low-cost housing project SOM/87/004.

Photographs of the prize-winning entries in the World HABITAT Day poster competition organized by the National Housing Development Authority of **Sri Lanka** have now reached us. We feature one of the over 2000 entries in one of the illustrations on the front cover.

In **Uganda** the Day coincided with celebrations marking the Silver Jubilee of the National Housing and Construction Corporation, one of its activities being the laying of the foundation for a new phase of the Bukota Housing Estate in Kampala, the capital. Also in the capital, the Minister of Housing and Urban Development held a press conference at his office. Upcountry activities took place in such towns as Tororo and Kabale — where a demonstration house using local materials but with an improved design was launched. Circulars on home improvement competitions were sent to all district and local authorities in a further decentralization of activities for the Day.

In **Zambia** the focal point for World HABITAT Day was the Decentralization Division in the Office of the Prime Minister. It co-ordinated activities through a national steering committee which included the National Housing Authority (NHA) and other relevant institutions and organizations, while provincial and district steering committees also met. In recognition of the importance of the occasion, the 1989 Day was officially launched by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, General Malimba Masheke, on the eve of the occasion. In his speech, broadcast over radio and television, the Prime Minister noted efforts to bring basic resources such as appropriate building materials, finance, land and technical know-how closer to the people — to enable them to participate in shelter provision for themselves. Demonstrations of a settlement planning model suitable for rural areas, a low- cost house, and production of fibre-cement roofing tiles were put on in Lusaka by the NHA, while the Lusaka Urban District Council built a demonstration house, displayed a model of settlement patterns before and after upgrading, plus model core and completed houses of four types, and a demonstration of blockmaking and of the use of insecticide to combat malaria. To cite but one district-level report, the Serenje District Council sponsored discussions and demonstrations on a variety of topics from digging pit latrines through mother- and child-care services to self-help activities in slums and squatter settlements.

The **Zimbabwe** Co-ordinating Committee on Human Settlements (ZCCHS) for the World HABITAT Day campaign in 1989 decided to focus on the roles, responsibilities and capabilities of NGOs in the field of human settlements during a full week of activities. Accordingly, many of the activities centred round NGO shelter efforts. The Ministry of Public Construction and National Housing together with ZCCHS prepared a documentary video on "Maintaining and Caring for our Neighbourhoods", which defined the roles of local authorities, NGOs, employees, women, youth and schoolchildren in upgrading and maintenance programmes. The documentary was screened on television on 2 October 1989. The Honourable Minister of Public

At the new UNCHS (Habitat) Information Office for North America and the Caribbean: from left to right, the Hon. Alan Redway, Minister of State (Housing), Government of Canada, Mr. Robert A. Player, Commissioner of Housing and Property, City of Ottawa and Mr. Yvo de Boer, Chief, Information Office for North America and the Caribbean.

Construction and National Housing, addressing NGOs in Bulawayo on the Day, appealed for their help in reaching the goal of shelter for all by the year 2000 by intensifying their efforts in providing shelter. He toured some of their projects in Bulawayo, such as houses being constructed by school leavers' co-operatives, as well as visiting the headquarters of the Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress, which is actively assisting in the rehabilitation of traditional houses in rural areas. Addressing NGOs in Harare, the capital, the Honourable Minister circulated a discussion paper suggesting how NGOs could increase their activities in human settlements. He and NGO representatives also visited the National Training Centre for Rural Women in Melfort, which has built a demonstration village using indigenous building materials, and the Mupfure Training Centre in Chegutu, which, in collaboration with the Intermediate Technology Development Group, has initiated pilot projects to promote low-cost construction materials and projects. Similar activities were held at grassroots and provincial levels.

Further information has also been received from the UNCHS (Habitat) Regional Office at **Geneva**, which, in collaboration with Communauté de Travail (Swissaid, Action de Carême, Pain pour le Prochain and Helvetas), organized an exhibition "Habiter dans le Tiers-Monde: Rester ou Partir". Displayed at the Palais des Nations from 2 to 6 October 1989, the exhibition consisted of 40 panels plus a number of models of vernacular shelter from various parts of the world. These may be seen in the accompanying photographs to this article.

A photograph taken on the occasion of the official opening of the UNCHS (Habitat) Office for North America and the Caribbean in **Ottawa, Canada** (see article in the previous issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS) has also been received and is shown on the left.

Shelter and Urbanization

The world is becoming increasingly urban. At the beginning of the nineteenth century only 3 per cent of the world's population lived in cities and towns. By the end of this century almost half the global population will be living in urban areas. The scale of urbanization around the world, rising demand for housing and services, rising prices for the provision of services and materials for basic human needs, inadequacy of existing administrative systems and limited municipal budgets have given new impetus for innovations in urban management, particularly for the delivery of shelter for low-income groups.

In the last three decades the balance of urban concentration has shifted from the industrialized nations to the developing ones. Over only 70 years the developing world's urban population has increased from 1 million in 1920 to well over 1 billion today. While cities in developing countries are growing at 3 to 4 per cent annually, the slums, illegal subdivisions and shanty towns are growing at twice that rate. If current trends hold, the urban settlements of the developing countries will have to accommodate a further three quarters of a billion people by the year 2000.

4e JOURNÉE MONDIALE
DE L'HABITAT
GENEVE 2 OCTOBRE 1989
DR. GOLDSTEIN
UNCHS
CHAIRMAN

Scene from the commemoration of the fourth World HABITAT Day in Geneva Photo credit: L. Bianco

Scene from the exhibition at the fourth World HABITAT Day in Geneva Photo credit: L. Bianco

Merely to maintain today's often extremely inadequate living and shelter conditions, the developing world will have to increase its capacity to produce and manage its urban infrastructure, services and shelter by an estimated 65 per cent in this decade. Failure by national governments to confront, analyse and change the contexts in which poor urban people access adequate shelter and to co-operate internationally to enable an all-out effort to produce and improve shelter commensurate with real demand, will bring urban shelter problems to a point of no return.

In the context of rapid and unprecedented large-scale urbanization in developing countries, the biggest issue is how to meet the shelter needs of massive and growing low-income populations. Innovative solutions, highlighted in the Global Strategy for Shelter, will have to use the full potential of human and natural resources creatively within the cities themselves. In addition, governments will need to develop explicit settlement strategies to guide the process of urbanization, taking the pressure off the largest urban centres through building up small towns and cities and integrating them more closely with their rural hinterlands. Sustainable development through urbanization will depend on closer work with the majorities of urban poor who are the true city builders, tapping the skill, energies and resources of neighbourhood groups and those in the informal sector. For these reasons UNCHS (Habitat) has chosen "Shelter and Urbanization" as the theme for World HABITAT Day 1990.

INTER-AGENCY CO-OPERATION

INSTRAW Consultative Meeting on Evaluation Methodologies for Programmes and Projects on Women in Development

A Consultative Meeting on Evaluation Methodologies for Programmes and Projects on Women in Development was held from 8 to 10 November 1989. Organized by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), it was hosted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at its headquarters in New York. Thirty-five participants represented 22 United Nations bodies and the Canadian International Aid Agency (CIDA), the Swedish International Aid Authority (SIDA), and the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD). Ms. Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, Director of INSTRAW, chaired the meeting. She pointed out that the major objective was to do a brainstorming on the improvements needed for the current evaluation practices applied to programmes, and specifically to women-in-development projects within the United Nations system.

INSTRAW's survey paper, "The Women-in-Development Dimension in Evaluation Methodologies", was presented by Ms. M. Carrera-Halim, who made a desk-top survey of evaluation procedures in general and evaluation procedures for women in development projects in particular. Organizations made short statements on how they deal with evaluation and incorporate women in development aspects. Ms. Aliye P. Celik of UNCHS (Habitat) made a statement.

The survey paper was discussed together with the different aspects of evaluation methodologies on women and development. Specific issues were identified and discussed in two smaller working groups, which made recommendations to the United Nations bodies.

The meeting emphasized the importance of a **cost-effective, objective-oriented evaluation system** that would provide feedback to technical assistance projects and programmes incorporating women in development. **Sensitizing individuals on women's issues** was singled out as one of the most important factors in achieving success in women-in-development.

World Conference on Preparing for Climate Change

A World Conference on Preparing for Climate Change was convened by the Climate Institute, the Government of Egypt, and UNEP, at Cairo from 17 to 21 December 1989. It brought together over 400 participants from developed and developing countries and from the United Nations system. UNCHS (Habitat) was represented by Messrs. D. Johal, Director, Office of Programme Co-ordination, and P. Towfighi, Chief, Inter-agency Affairs, Office of the Executive Director. The Conference was opened by the First Lady of Egypt, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, Honorary Chairperson of the Conference.

Mr. D. Johal chaired the **Panel on Human Settlements**, after reading the opening statement of Dr. Ramachandran to the Panel. That statement focused on the impact of climate change and subsequent anticipated sea-level rise on coastal human settlements. It is estimated that 50 million people will be driven from their coastal dwellings by the rising sea in the next century if no preventive action is taken. Among the UNCHS (Habitat) initiatives is the development of a joint project with UNEP on measuring the vulnerability of a number of metropolitan areas (e.g., Cairo, Jakarta and Karachi).

While taking into account current scientific uncertainty about the precise extent of global warming and its impact on human settlements, the Panel made the following 12 conclusions and recommendations:

(1) Due to the potential impact of climate change on human settlements, governments should initiate precautionary, preventive and contingency measures to safeguard existing settlements and to plan future settlements;

(2) Extensive research should be undertaken on the identification and assessment of the vulnerability of human settlements to climate change and its outcomes and on the resiliency of human settlements likely to be affected;

(3) Studies should be carried out on coastal areas, which contain over 60 per cent of the world's urban population; and on the movement of populations induced by climate changes as well as other causes. Furthermore, comprehensive mapping of natural systems and their interrelationships with human settlements should be undertaken with a view to the development of plans for the prevention and mitigation of the impact of global warming and sea-level rise on the coastal metropolitan areas of the world;

(4) Incentives should be adopted to encourage an ecologically-sustainable human settlements system within countries;

(5) Public awareness and educational programmes of climate-change issues and the mechanisms by which individuals, communities and public authorities can contribute to sustainable development should be emphasized throughout the process of policy formulation, planning and implementation;

(6) Socio-economic and spatial planning at the local, regional and national levels must include considerations of climate change and its impacts;

(7) An assessment should be made of adaptive and preventive policies and strategies relating to climate change and include, where feasible, all human settlements planning efforts;

(8) The planning of human settlements should integrate natural habitats critical to environmental health;

(9) Energy efficiency must be a primary consideration in land-use planning, building and infrastructure design and individual decision-making. Energy pricing should include economic, environmental and social costs.

(10) Regulatory measures for discouraging development in low-lying coastal regions should be considered. Where such regulations need to be adopted, studies should first be undertaken to determine the number of people who will be affected and the cost of relocation from these areas;

(11) Technical and technological options relating to land use and settlement planning should be identified and developed to deal with specific country requirements in facing the possibility of climate change and sea-level rise. Technologies should be provided by the advanced countries to the less advanced ones on terms the latter can afford. International organizations should play an important role as conduits for the transfer of such technologies;

(12) The Panel recommends wider application of technologies for preparation of global topographic data especially from 0 to MSL + 5m (where MSL = Mean Sea Level) of the coastal areas.

On the final day, the Conference adopted The **Cairo Compact**: Toward a Concerted World-wide Response to the Climate Crisis. Among the many points made were the need for a framework climate convention before the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, backed by protocols containing more specific commitments, e.g., in the promotion of energy efficiency. Major energy savings, it noted, should be achieved through mass transport and better urban planning and building design. Relevant United Nations agencies need more support, just as the poorer nations require additional financial and technological resources. Among the other issues touched upon were the need to consider the national and international implications of environmental refugees, and the possibility of establishing World Cultural Zones to safeguard historically significant buildings and other antiquities. A real sense of urgency underlay the Compact, with its conclusion that "for the sake of our planet and the lives of our children and generations to come, we must act now."

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

At the concluding session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which held its fourth session at Geneva from 15 January to 2 February 1990, the right to adequate housing was discussed.

Addressing the session on behalf of the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), Mr. Lars Ludvigsen said that the condition of human settlements, particularly in developing countries, had worsened in recent years, despite efforts by governments and by the poor themselves. Within the next 15 years, the urban population of developing countries was expected to double, and roughly one billion new urban dwellers, most of them poor, would be crowding into cities already strained to their limit.

UNCHS (Habitat) has been designated by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/181 to act as the secretariat for the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and the lead agency for co-ordinating and evaluating the relevant programmes and activities of United Nations organizations and agencies. The Plan of Action 1989-1991 of the Global Strategy envisages action at three levels: Member States; United Nations General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Commission on Human Settlements and UNCHS (Habitat); and United Nations agencies and organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The UNCHS (Habitat) representative said that General Assembly resolution 41/146 "Realization of the right to adequate housing" of 4 December 1986 "reiterates the need to take, at the national and international levels, measures for promoting the right of all persons to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate housing". He added that within the framework of the Plan of Action of the Global Strategy there was room for human rights groups to start action at both national and international levels to work on detailed plans to promote the right to adequate shelter which include the right to land, water, sanitation, construction materials and financing.

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

Islamic Republic of Iran: Developing appropriate construction materials for war-damaged areas

At the end of January 1990, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNCHS (Habitat) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a project document launching a three-year project on the development of appropriate construction materials with particular reference to the rehabilitation of war-damaged areas. This project, IRA/89/020, will help the Government to meet the demand generated by its development plans, particularly the reconstruction elements.

In Iran, the total housing stock was reduced by nearly 30 per cent in the 10-year period between 1976/77 and 1986/87, with the rural sector losing more than half of its housing. According to one estimate, about 200,000 new units will need to be added every year to meet the current shortfall in the foreseeable future.

The Government's current five-year plan is for the annual total production of housing stock to be raised from 375,000 in 1987/88 to 535,000 in 1992/93, with an additional 2.5 million housing units proposed for the Eighth Plan Period. Policies and priorities to rejuvenate the construction sector, especially in war-damaged areas, give particular attention to the provision of building materials at various stages — from the extraction of raw materials locally through the development of building technologies to the production of building materials.

This project will aid the Government's efforts by helping to improve the performance of the construction industry, building up the capacity of the construction-materials sector. To this end it will strengthen the research capabilities of the Building and Housing Research Centre (established in 1973/74 with UNDP assistance) by providing additional equipment (including a mobile laboratory) and training in:

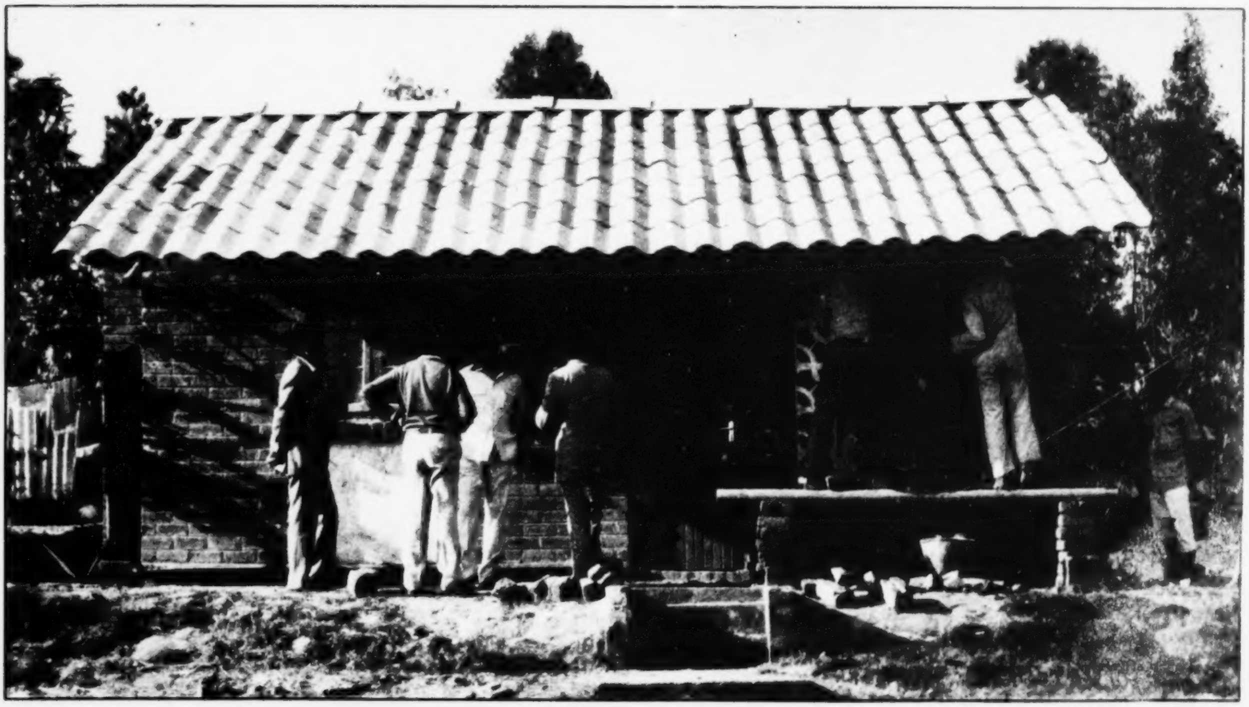
- Small-scale cement production;
- Improved building lime production;
- Improved construction quality control;
- Mitigating losses caused by fires in buildings.

Beneficiaries of these efforts will include the people in war-damaged areas who will benefit from speedier reconstruction work and the improved quality thereof, low- and middle-income families who will gain housing through the Government's programme, and those living in high-rise buildings in urban areas at risk from fire.

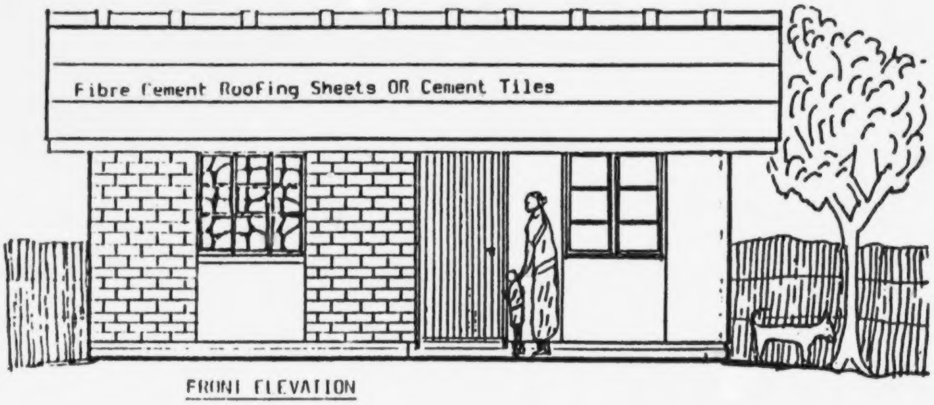
Malawi: Rural Housing Programme enters new phase

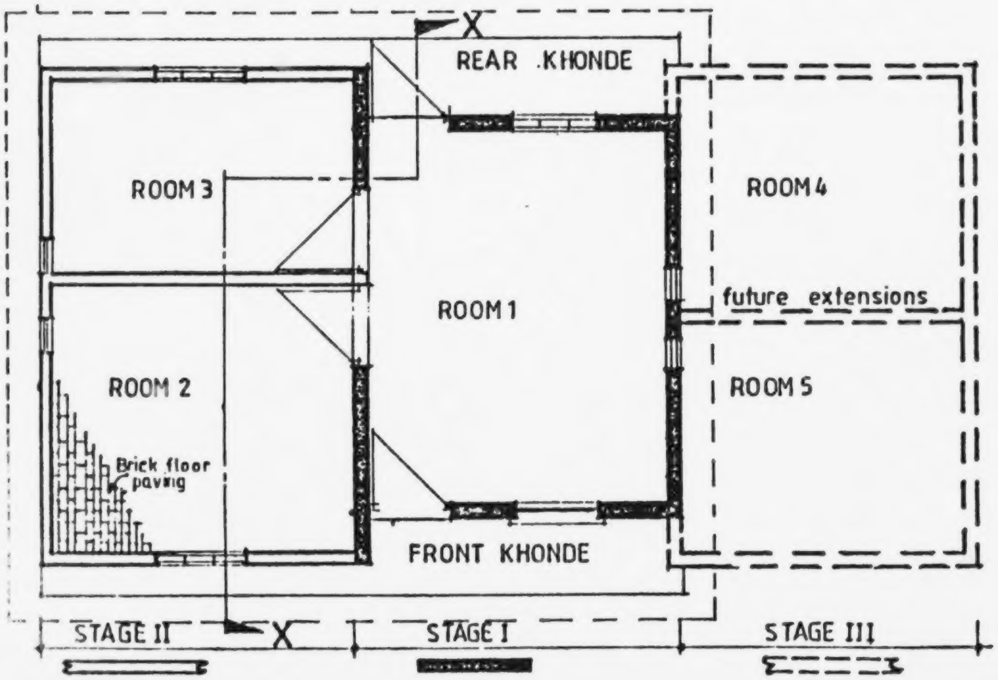
Phase I

In Malawi, more than 85 per cent of the people live in rural areas — yet over half their houses need urgent replacement by more durable and safer shelter. Given the need for decent housing, the Government launched the Rural Housing Programme (RHP) in 1981, in co-operation with UNCHS (Habitat) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In 1984, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) joined to provide credit funds. The long-term development objective of the Government in launching the RHP is to motivate, encourage and assist rural families to improve their



The first demonstration house to be roofed with the RHP handmade roofing tiles in 1986 was inspected by the project staff while work progressed. Two and a half years later it had no defects, thus leading to the introduction of roofing tiles as another low-cost roofing material for the project.


Fibre Cement Roofing Sheets OR Cement Tiles
FRONT ELEVATION


X
REAR KHONDE
ROOM 3
ROOM 1
ROOM 4
future extensions
ROOM 2
ROOM 5
Brick floor paving
FRONT KHONDE
STAGE II
X
STAGE I
STAGE III

(A House That Grows)

housing conditions and quality of life in line with overall national development objectives.

Initially, the implementation of the RHP was in two stages. The **experimental/demonstration stage** covered the development, testing and application of alternative low-cost local building materials and construction methods plus the development of simple and economical house designs. The second stage was a **pilot phase** for launching a rural housing credit scheme in 1984 with additional funds from UNCDF to supplement the Government's efforts in establishing a rural housing credit revolving fund. The building of an **institutional framework** continues to be a major focus. The project has achieved results in all three areas — institution building, low-cost housing design and development, and the establishment of a rural housing credit scheme. These are described below.

The RHP is within the Department of Housing and Physical Planning in the Office of the President and Cabinet. It has three main sections: administration, technology, and credit and social service. Three regional centres, 24 district centres and one subcentre have the infrastructure and national staff needed to service and train the 24 districts. Thirty-five national project staff have been trained through fellowships for periods ranging from three months to four years, 24 have been on one- to four-week study tours in different countries, and over 360 have been trained on-the-job. Furthermore, over 300 local artisans and builders have been trained in low-cost building technology, house building and the production of local materials and components on-site.

As for design and development, several designs based on the concept of "a house that grows" have been produced and are in use — the most popular being two- and three-roomed houses. Low-cost building materials and components developed include fibre-cement roofing sheets and tiles, concrete door frames and window grills, and ventblocks. A number of low-cost construction techniques have been successfully applied — among them the construction of stone foundations on-site and of brick floor-paving slabs, mud mortar walljoints and cement/sand seal wall construction, plus ventilated improved pit latrines. Over 1400 houses have been or are being built using RHP low-cost materials and technology, under project supervision.

The credit system has been set up, policy and guidelines reviewed and revised, and a number of project staff have been trained to implement it. Of the 3000 applications processed and approved, half have led to material loans. Some 50 of the trained artisans' applications for small business loans have allowed the setting up of small-scale entrepreneurs in the rural areas, and another 20 loans have been approved. Over 400 beneficiaries are repaying their loans through the Post Office Savings Bank. A revolving fund is being established so that others may benefit in turn.

Phase II

Given the encouraging achievements of the first phase, and increasing demand for project services from both rural and urban areas, it was decided to extend the project to a new phase at the beginning of 1989. The main objectives are:

(a) To further promote and upgrade the RHP credit system's financial, managerial and technical capacity so that it may serve an increased number of beneficiaries, with an effective loan-recovery system;

(b) To promote and upgrade the small-scale entrepreneurs' capacity to produce low-cost building materials and homes, making such services available to larger numbers and reducing house construction/renovation costs.

Thus Phase II is expected to achieve an increase in the number of beneficiaries from 1000 to 2500 annually, and the number of upgraded small-scale material producers and house builders from less than 10 to over 100 by the end of 1992. It is also expected to strengthen the loan recovery system through the formation of village housing development groups or co-operatives and achieve a loan recovery rate of over 80 per cent. (The present rate of under 60 per cent is considered unacceptable.) The Rural Housing Revolving Fund will then come into its own.

J.K. Kateregga
CTA UNCHS (Habitat) RHP

Niger: Improvement of urban living conditions and housing, Phase II, (NER/87/013, NER/85/CO6)

UNCHS (Habitat), UNDP and UNCDF, together with the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Urbanization of the Government of Niger are currently executing a joint project aimed at the rehabilitation of an existing housing area (Yantala, 77 ha, 14,000 inhabitants) and the development of a related new housing area (New Yantala, 34 ha, 5000 future inhabitants) at Niamey.

The project follows on from UNCHS (Habitat)/UNDP activities (Improvement of urban living conditions and housing, Phase I), where detailed socio-economic studies and surveys had been undertaken. On that basis, improvement proposals and programmes were formulated.

The key issues of the current phase are to:

- Introduce financial mechanisms assuring **total cost recovery** of infrastructure investments including maintenance cost;
- Introduce a **credit system** giving low-income groups access to house ownership;
- **Strengthen local administration**'s capability to implement, monitor and evaluate the present and to formulate future similar improvement programmes in other urban areas.

The project started early in 1989 and, covering a three-year period, is now entering its crucial phase where, parallel to the execution of its physical components (road network, water and electricity supply systems, drainage), the much more delicate financial and institutional arrangements have to be made operational.

Cost-recovery principles, housing credit systems (revolving funds) and promotion of institutions involved are in themselves not new or unique approaches; there exist numerous examples of related methodology and procedures from other countries. It is their specific form for this target group and their combined introduction that gives this project a fundamental role in the Government's attempts to redefine its urban and housing development policies.

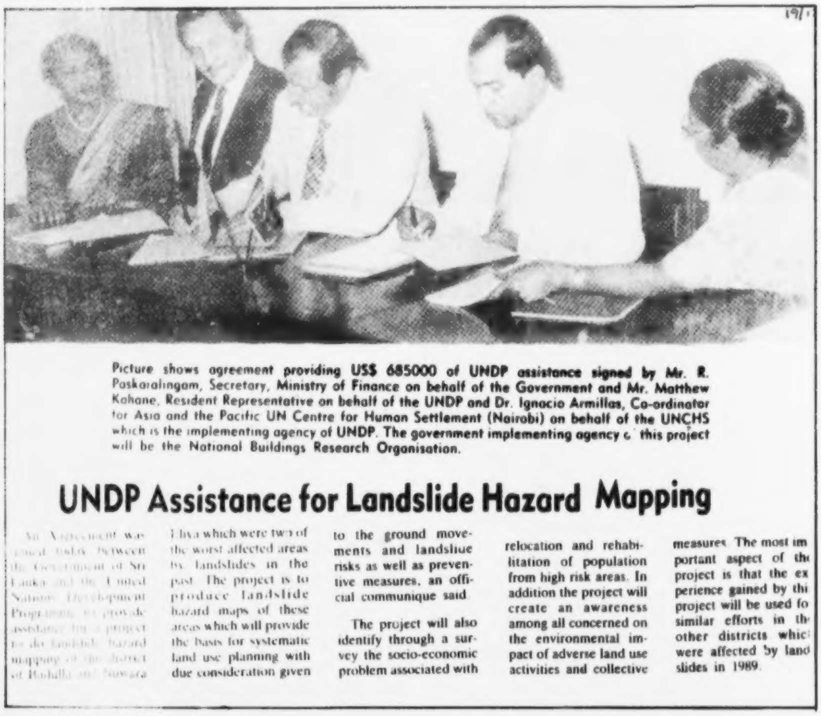
A close monitoring of this kind of project will seek to answer questions such as the following:

- To what extent can cost-recovery principles be associated with improvement programmes if not all members of the target groups are in favour of the foreseen improvements? What is the role of sensitizing target groups and what are the means to be used?
- Does cost-recovery eliminate subsidies or will it tend to minimize and rationalize their application? How have infrastructures to be designed with regard to the relation of initial and follow-up cost if maintenance costs are to be recovered directly from beneficiaries?
- How can the potential drawbacks in the running of revolving funds (reduced rate of loan recovery, delays in the recovery process and also mismanagement) be minimized? By a more restrictive selection of beneficiaries, thus reducing their

number and eliminating the economically weakest, or by an increase of administrative control, leading thereby to a level of overhead cost that negatively affects the benefits of operations? What compromise can be attained?

These and other such fundamental questions show that pilot projects of this type not only contribute to the improvement of living conditions of the beneficiaries directly concerned, but have far-reaching impacts on the future formulation of related programmes and projects.

Sri Lanka: Landslide hazard mapping project



Picture shows agreement providing US$ 685000 of UNDP assistance signed by Mr. R. Paskaralingam, Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government and Mr. Matthew Kahane, Resident Representative on behalf of the UNDP and Dr. Ignacio Armillas, Co-ordinator for Asia and the Pacific UN Centre for Human Settlement (Nairobi) on behalf of the UNCHS which is the implementing agency of UNDP. The government implementing agency c this project will be the National Buildings Research Organisation.

UNDP Assistance for Landslide Hazard Mapping

An Agreement was signed today between the Government of Sri Lanka and the United Nations Development Programme to provide assistance for a project to do landslide hazard mapping of the district of Badulla and Nuwara Eliya which were two of the worst affected areas by landslides in the past. The project is to produce landslide hazard maps of these areas which will provide the basis for systematic land use planning with due consideration given to the ground movements and landslide risks as well as preventive measures, an official communique said.

The project will also identify through a survey the socio-economic problem associated with relocation and rehabilitation of population from high risk areas. In addition the project will create an awareness among all concerned on the environmental impact of adverse land use activities and collective measures The most important aspect of th project is that the experience gained by thi project will be used fo similar efforts in th other districts whic were affected by land slides in 1989.

The portfolio of projects in the field of natural disaster mitigation in human settlements continues to expand with the recent signing of a landslide hazard mapping project in Sri Lanka. Initiated appropriately enough on 1 January 1990, this project coincides with the beginning of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) designated by the United Nations General Assembly.

Sri Lanka has been experiencing a spate of landslides over extensive areas of its central and south-western regions since the early 1980s. The January 1986 landslides had until recently been by far the most widespread, affecting seven districts in the hill country, claiming a toll of 51 lives, and rendering more than 100,000 families homeless. The damage to life and property caused then is now overtaken by the more recent landslides which occurred in large parts of the hill country in May-June 1989. In severity and the extent of damage, it surpassed all earlier landslide occurrences in the country — claiming more than 300 lives and rendering a yet undetermined number of families homeless.

Apart from causing widespread destruction to life and personal property, the landslides have also wreaked havoc on the economic infrastructure in the affected districts. Disruptions have been caused to water supply, power generation and distribution, telecommunications, arterial roads linking the affected areas to several parts of the country, and educational facilities. According to one estimate, the total damage to the economic infrastructure caused by the 1989 landslides alone would, on a conservative basis, amount to SLRs 2800 million.

The recurring landslides have also led to rapid destruction of the environment in the affected districts. The total extent of loss of forest cover, wildlife, and damage to the ecosystem cannot be estimated.

The UNCHS (Habitat)/UNDP/Government of Sri Lanka project (SRL/89/001) will provide vital information with regard to the spatial distribution of the landslide hazard in the project area (homestead lands, including urban built-up areas and surrounding marginal lands in Badula and Muwara Eliya districts in Central Province). Landslide hazard maps produced by the project will provide the basis for:

(a) Systematic land-use planning with due consideration of the stability of hilly areas against ground movements and landslides;

(b) Appropriate land-use management in medium- and high-risk areas through development-control regulations;

(c) Relocation of existing human settlements and infrastructure facilities from high-risk areas to stable low-risk locations, based on a "total risk" analysis.

The project will also use a socio-economic survey to gain insights into the social and economic problems associated with the relocation and rehabilitation of population from high-risk areas. This will help the Government to formulate resettlement policies and programmes in landslide-affected districts on a more rational and realistic basis. Through a structured programme of training that will be organized at different levels — extending from district-level administrators, planners and engineers down to inhabitants in hazard-prone areas — it will also create an awareness among all concerned of the environmental impacts of adverse land-use activities. By supporting government initiatives and corrective measures the project will assist in the better environmental management of the hill country, and promote sustainable development of human settlements.

HABITAT IN THE ARAB STATES

Iraq: The First International Symposium on Post-War Reconstruction in Basra and Fao

The First International Symposium on Post-War Reconstruction in Basra and Fao, held at Baghdad, Iraq, from 18 to 20 November 1989, was arranged as a forum to demonstrate Iraq's capacity to plan, design and reconstruct these two major border cities, almost totally devastated during the recent eight-year war with the Islamic Republic of

Iran. It drew upon similar experiences of other countries, as well as international bodies. The Symposium also stressed Iraq's peace-time policy geared towards economic development.

Held under the auspices of H.E. President Saddam Hussein, the Symposium was opened and closed by H.E. Mr. Ali Hassan Al-Najib, Minister of Local Government. It was attended by several other concerned Ministers, among them H.E. Mr. Taher Hassoun, Minister of Housing and Construction. Of the over 200 participants, about 130 came from Iraq, 50 from other Arab States, 15 from other countries, and seven represented the United Nations system. The League of Arab States was also represented. Mr. Salah Bourjini, the UNDP Resident Representative who headed the United Nations delegation, was one of the keynote speakers.

UNCHS (Habitat) presented a paper outlining its worldwide experience in reconstruction subsequent to natural and man-made disasters, particularly in several Arab countries, Asia and Latin America. This paper, presented by Mr. Ismail Hammad, also highlighted the important role of women in development, as well as the incorporation of appropriate facilities for the handicapped.

A one-day site-tour of both Basra and Fao provided participants with first-hand information on the planning and the construction in the record time of only three months of thousands of houses, public buildings, infrastructure, services etc. As a result of this haste, some technical and administrative problems were confronted on-site, related to costs, quality control, waste of material, and co-ordination. These were all addressed by the Symposium and thoroughly discussed by the participants. While recognizing those problems, the Government considered the time factor as much more important for rehabilitating the displaced hundreds of thousands of inhabitants.

The Symposium passed six recommendations, two of importance to UNCHS (Habitat). The fifth proposed another symposium to evaluate all human settlements aspects of similar experiences. The sixth was to explore further other experiences and expertise available to local, regional and international establishments in the fields of human settlements policies, methods of construction, building materials, development and environment, in order to draw upon them in future reconstruction efforts.

The Symposium enjoyed full media coverage: television, radio and newspaper (Arabic and English). UNCHS (Habitat)'s representative had a five-minute interview with the Iraqi Arabic television service. The theme of this programme was to introduce the Centre to the general public as well as to decision-makers, stressing how UNCHS (Habitat) could help in reconstruction efforts.

Morocco: A new project on national land-use development plan

Project MOR/88/014/A/01/56 consists of two phases: the first, scheduled to start in April 1990 and continue for 15 months, is meant to help the Directorate of Land-use Development of the Ministry of the Interior to collect data, prepare a portfolio on different development sectors and finally to propose alternative scenarios for the preparation of the National Plan. The second phase, which will start immediately thereafter, is geared towards the preparation of the National Land-use Development Plan.

The budget of the first phase consists of two components; the UNDP participation is approximately $US 500,000, and the Government's share is approximately DH 2 million. Eventually, the budget of the two phases will exceed $US 1 million.

Direct beneficiaries of the project are those ministries and departments engaged in planning at central, regional and local levels. The population at regional and local levels will be the indirect beneficiaries.

The development objectives, geared to include women in all aspects, are rural development, human-resource development and capacity strengthening, and the creation of job opportunities for small- and medium-size industries. To achieve that, a great deal of investment will be allocated towards co-operatives and groups at the local level.

In addition, the project enables the Government to prepare a cohesive national land-use policy aimed at reducing existing regional disparities, through promoting development poles and encouraging public participation in development.

Diagnosis will be prepared during the first phase after assessing the existing situation through evaluating the following portfolios: natural, financial, and human resources; industries; public services; national infrastructure; collective urban framework (hierarchy of towns, urban employment, rural-urban migration etc.); and protection of the environment.

The project will be managed by an international chief technical adviser, aided by four international consultants. It will also engage 15 national consultants. A national project manager will be assigned, who will be assisted by six national experts on a full-time basis. In addition, a national administrative supporting staff will also be engaged by the project.

In its first phase, the project includes on-the-job training for the national counterparts, while during its second phase it will provide training courses in related international institutions.

Upon completion of the project, the Government will have a clearer vision and a comprehensive database to draw upon, in order to formulate its national shelter strategy in conformity with the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

Yemen: Building-materials quality control

Yemen is perhaps the only Arab country that still maintains its beautifully ornamented traditional vernacular architecture on a large scale. Thus the use of other building materials, methods and techniques necessitated the introduction of appropriate quality-control measures. In collaboration with UNDP, UNCHS (Habitat) is assisting the Ministry of Transport and Public Works in establishing a Building Materials Testing Laboratory.

By the end of the project, appropriate measures of quality control will be established, benefiting the Government, the public and the construction industry at large.

The project, YEM/88/009, started in late 1988, and is scheduled for completion by the end of 1990. The Government provided the venue, on the ground floor of the Ministry in Sana'a, next to another already-functioning laboratory for road construction. UNCHS (Habitat) is assisting in selecting, purchasing and installing machinery and equipment.

The project is looking into the existing quality control norms and laws, and proposing appropriate improvements. The Laboratory will eventually pay for itself, through testing of building materials both for the Government and the public.

Training is an important activity of the project. Apart from on-the-job training for national staff, the project is making 14 fellowships available to engineers and technicians. Some are already overseas, while the rest are expected to take up their fellowships soon. As part of the training activities, the project is conducting two series of five workshops, in February and July 1990 on the overall theme "Quality Control of Structures and Building Materials".

The first series drew firm Government attention and support. H.E. Dr. Hassan Makki, the Deputy Prime Minister, opened it before a full hall at Sana'a University. Among the keynote speakers were H.E. Mr. Abdulla Hussein Al-Kurshumi, the Minister of Transport and Public Works; Mr. Mohammad Lutfi Al-Iryani, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Sana'a University; and Mr. Michael Hyland, the UNDP Resident Representative. Fourteen papers were later presented, three of them prepared by project personnel. These workshops were also given full coverage by the national media.

URBAN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

■ Approval of Phase II, 1990-1991

The UNDP approved funding for Phase II of the UNDP/UNCHS(Habitat)/World Bank Urban Management Programme at the end of January 1990. As described in previous issues of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS, the Programme has been fully operational since May 1987 and has already become the focal point for major international efforts to strengthen urban management in developing countries. Eight bilateral and four multilateral external support agencies (ESAs) are now actively involved in the Programme, and a number of international urban non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are associated with it. Furthermore, the Programme has been instrumental in raising the urban agenda among ESAs and has led to increased technical and financial support to developing countries in this sector. The Programme helped arrange the major international urban conference held in Ottawa, Canada, in the third quarter of 1988, and supported a second meeting in Lille, France, in November 1989 (see article elsewhere in this issue). An important measure of success is the increasing number of requests for technical co-operation support from the governments of developing countries, and the Programme has had a direct impact on major urban capital-investment programmes such as World Bank-funded investment projects in Indonesia, Mexico and Pakistan.

The objectives and outputs of Phase II, covering the 1990-1991 period, have been refined with considerable guidance from the Programme's Second Advisory Panel Meeting held in June 1989, a Senior Experts Working Group Meeting organized by UNDP in September 1989, and the First Consultative Workshop on Environmental Issues held in September 1989 (reported in previous issues of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS).

Phase II involves activities under three ongoing and two new Programme components:

(1) Land management;
(2) Municipal finance;
(3) Infrastructure;
(4) Environment;
(5) Capacity building.

Work under each of the four substantive components (1) to (4) above will follow a similar pattern:

(1) Further information gathering, research and analysis (to understand the existing information base and gaps);

(2) Policy frameworks (advice on strategic options in each component subject area);

(3) Case studies (to illustrate best practice, constraints on action and to elaborate on policy frameworks);

(4) Implementation tools (to include technical and management option manuals for implementing strategic options in each component area on a country-specific basis);

(5) Capacity building (to strengthen national human-resource capacity for improved urban management, *inter alia*, through collaborative programmes with national training and research institutions).

Land management

Phase I work on land-market analysis; land-development strategies; land-use planning and regulations; land-information systems; land law, property rights and registration will continue into Phase II. Policy frameworks will be developed which address the economic, social, legal and institutional aspects of urban land management and indicate options for making urban land markets more responsive to the demands of urbanization. Country-and city-specific implementation strategies will begin during Phase II.

Municipal finance

Phase II work on municipal finance addresses three broad issues: (a) how can the resources to finance municipal government be mobilized? (b) how can municipal financial management be improved? and (c) how can the delivery of urban services be organized to provide municipal government with the means and incentives to perform more effectively?

Policy frameworks and implementation tools for improved resource mobilization, financial management and institutional reform will be produced during Phase II.

Infrastructure

Based upon activities begun in Phase I, a policy framework and implementation tools will be prepared for issues and strategic options in operations and maintenance (O&M); policy frameworks will be prepared on institutional arrangements for infrastructure management and on O&M planning and management; a policy framework and implementation tools will be prepared for utility mapping and record-keeping for infrastructure management; and an outline policy framework will be prepared for standards, procedures, materials and equipment for infrastructure provision and O&M.

Environmental issues in urban management

Work on this important new component of the Programme has begun under five main headings: improving municipal waste collection, improved waste treatment, co-ordinated pollution-control activities, sustainable use of natural resources and the incorporation of environmental planning and management techniques into city-wide strategic planning and implementation. (Details of the issues to be addressed were included in the previous issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS.)

Capacity building

The capacity-building component, which will expand the Programme's existing role in technical co-operation and dissemination initiated during Phase I, is to be managed by a capacity-building task manager at UNCHS (Habitat). Initially, an overall dissemination strategy will be prepared for each component of the Programme, with the long-term objective of building up in-country policy-making, implementation, research, training and dissemination capacity to address urban needs in the decades to come. Key areas to be addressed include: (a) the use of collaborative programmes with urban research and training institutions/policy-makers in developing countries to link operational urban management and related policy analysis with political decision-making; (b) development of training materials; and (c) use of the Programme to promote, publish and disseminate urban research in priority topic areas.

Workshop on Access by the Urban Poor to Basic Infrastructure Services

UNCHS (Habitat) participated in the above-cited workshop, held on 4 to 8 February 1990 at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, United States of America. The Workshop was organized by the World Bank's Economic Development Institute (EDI), with financial contributions by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Workshop was attended by senior government officials and representatives of NGOs from Asia, Africa and Latin America, and by staff from the World Bank, IDRC, USAID and UNICEF.

Three excellent background papers (one each for Africa, Asia and Latin America) had been prepared by consultants and were presented to the workshop. These three "think-pieces" served as the basis for discussions in plenary sessions which focused on the following five key issues:

- Existing approaches and obstacles to access by the urban poor to infrastructure services;
- Financing of urban services;
- The role of the non-governmental sector;
- The role of central and local governments;
- The effectiveness of government/non-government inter-relations.

Group discussions subsequently focused on each region and identified detailed key issues and problems as well as projects/programmes which might serve as case studies to highlight successful examples of interventions to facilitate access by the urban poor to basic services.

Follow-up actions by UNCHS(Habitat) will include addressing key issues related to access by the urban poor to basic infrastructure services in regional and subregional policy seminars programmed in the framework of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, as well as through appropriate regional and country-level technical co-operation activities.

LEARNING FROM THE ARMENIAN EARTHQUAKE OF DECEMBER 1988

A report on the International Symposium on "The Mitigation of the Effects of Seismic Activity on Human Settlements", 20 to 30 November 1989, Tbilisi, Georgia, USSR

The way in which humanity has responded to and developed the capacity to cope with the challenge of natural disaster is a theme of human history. Natural disaster prevention and mitigation places primary emphasis on identifying those elements in the context of a disaster that are man-made. In many cases the tragic loss of life results from the failure to plan and construct settlements in accordance with historical and technical knowledge of the risks involved. The Tbilisi Symposium is a good example of this ongoing task of constantly updating and integrating our knowledge in order to avoid recurrence of disasters like the Armenian earthquake of 1988.

Tbilisi Symposium

On the eve of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) 1990-2000, a Symposium on the Mitigation of the Effects of Seismic Activity on Human Settlements was held from 20 to 30 November 1989, in Tbilisi, capital of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic. The Symposium, organized by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)'s State Committee for Architecture and Town Planning (Goscomarchitecture) and the Georgian Council of Ministers, in collaboration with the UNCHS (Habitat), was hosted by the Tbilisi Zonal Research and Design Institute (TbilZNIIEP).

As the carefully-worded title of the Symposium indicates, it is important to distinguish between seismic activity which is a natural phenomenon beyond human control, and the effects of seismic activity on human settlements. The impact of earthquakes on human settlements is, to a large extent, determined by the method of research employed in measuring the seismicity and soil conditions in areas of high seismic risk and the way such studies have been integrated into the physical planning, structural design and the quality control of actual construction of buildings in seismic zones.

Every year, some thousand perceptible earthquakes take place around the globe — dozens achieving a magnitude of 7.0 or more on the Richter scale (such as the Spitak earthquake of over 9 that occurred on 7 December 1988, and which resulted in the loss of over 27,000 lives and rendered hundreds of thousands homeless). But not all strong earthquakes cause catastrophes for human societies. Some occur in sparsely populated desert areas and do not result in serious loss of life or property. Seismic activity causes damage to and loss of human life and property only when it comes into contact with man-made human settlements on the earth's surface.

Contrary to popular doomsday notions, the level of seismic activity manifesting itself on the earth's surface as earthquakes and tremors has remained very much the same since the dawn of history. Historical records reaching back some 2000 years or more depict the death and destruction earthquakes have wrought upon villages, towns and cities.

Even single storey houses were devastated by the earthquake.

SYMPOSIUM ON MITIGATION OF THE EFFECTS
OF SEISMIC ACTIVITY ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
СИМПОЗИУМ ПО УМЕНЬШЕНИЮ ВОЗДЕЙСТВИЯ
СЕЙСМИЧЕСКОЙ АКТИВНОСТИ НА НАСЕЛЕННЫЕ ПУНКТЫ
დასახლებულ პუნქტებზე სეისმური აქტივობის
ზემოქმედების შემცირების სიმპოზიუმი

Mr. Luis Esteva Maraboto of the University of Mexico making his presentation at the Tbilisi symposium

Spitak: earthquake survivors in front of their collapsed house

Apartment blocks in Spitak damaged by the December 1988 earthquake

The higher incidence of large- scale loss of life and property in the late twentieth century is due to the unprecedented scale of population growth and its concentration in urban settlements in seismically-active regions.

The purpose of the Symposium was to bring earth scientists (seismologists and soil engineers), structural/civil engineers, architects, and planners together to learn from the Armenian earthquake experience whilst referring to other experiences like the earthquakes in Mexico City in 1985 and the very recent earthquake in San Francisco, California, United States of America, earlier in 1989. All of these experiences have demonstrated very powerfully the need for a more integrated understanding of why earthquakes have generally taken such a tragic and costly toll, and how strategic interdisciplinary steps can be taken to avert such disasters in the future.

The Symposium was attended by 82 experts, 21 from outside the USSR: Brazil, Bulgaria, Egypt, India, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland, the United States and Yugoslavia, and the rest from the Soviet Union, including the Georgian SSR and the Armenian SSR. The 32 papers presented and discussed included: geological and seismological studies; the influence of soil on strong ground- motion characteristics; soil and structure interaction; theoretical and experimental investigation of the response of buildings of various structural types under seismic excitation; vulnerability and seismic risk analysis; repair, restoration and strengthening of buildings; micro-zoning for urban development; development controls and building codes and regulations for regions prone to seismic risk; historical and cultural factors influencing hazard awareness, planning and reconstruction; and the use of interactive media mapping for planning and public information.

Lessons learnt

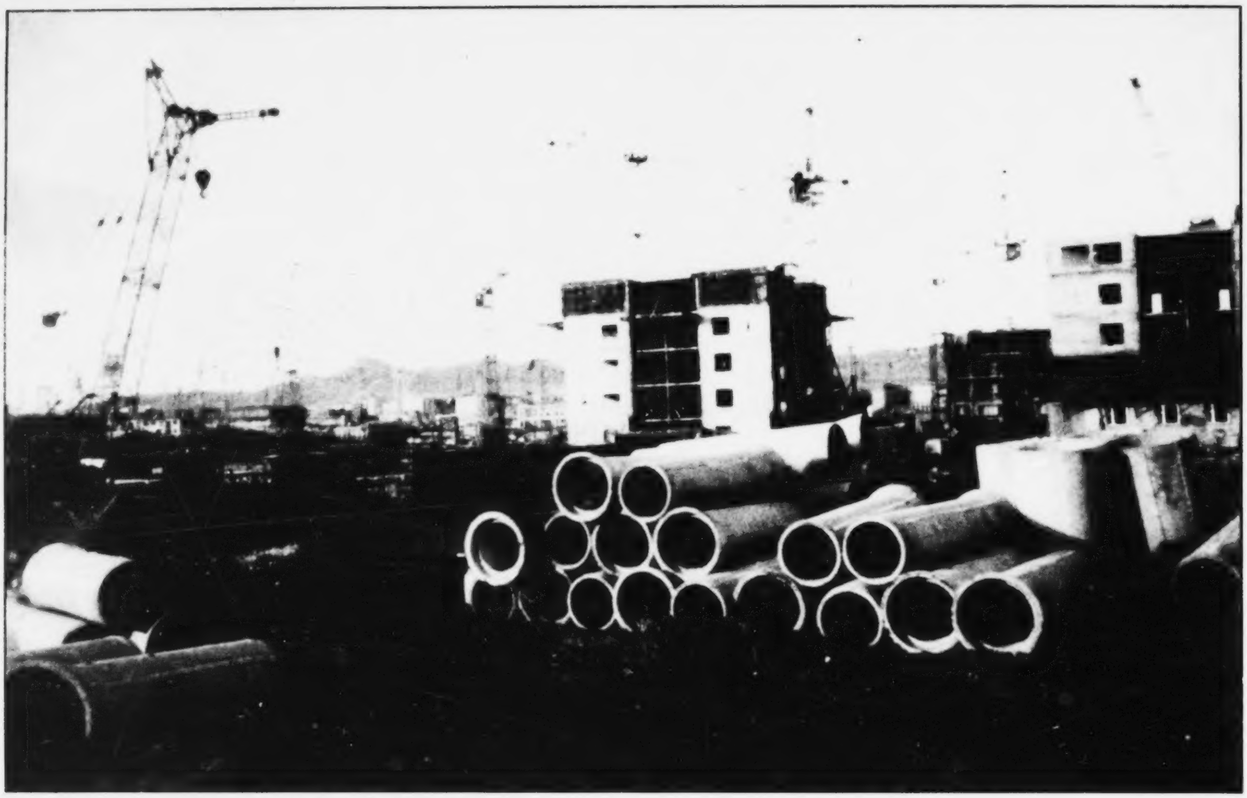
Participants reached a number of important conclusions of global relevance on how administrative, public and professional awareness should be developed to mitigate the impacts of seismic activity on human settlements and on lessons from the Spitak earthquake. Some of the major **conclusions** were the following:

“In many cases the high degree of destructiveness of earthquakes has resulted from construction codes and practices based on a neglect or underestimation of seismic hazards. Simple extrapolation of the statistics of the earthquake activity of nearby sources does not suffice for gaining realistic estimates of actual hazards.

“Contemporary methodologies for seismic hazard, risk and vulnerability analysis should be applied in seismic regions taking into consideration the local physical conditions.

“A significant portion of damage and destruction to modern engineered construction observed in recent earthquakes is related to the following inadequately understood concepts:

- The mathematical models are very simplified and do not reflect structural characteristics;
- Non-linear response of multi-degree-of-freedom systems must account for the real behaviour of components;
- Stiffness and strength degradation of structural members, subassemblages, joints and connections under the action of several alternating excitations should follow model and full-scale experimental data;



Construction of new apartments in Leninakan for earthquake victims

- Soil structure, interaction and non-linear behaviour of foundations, which is typically neglected, should be taken into consideration.

"In addition to these engineering conclusions, planning for mitigation and reconstruction should look to all relevant disciplines. The experience of each earthquake and its aftermath, while unique, nevertheless fits into perceivable historical patterns which not only help us to see our experience in a broader context, but can offer insight into how we will react to earthquakes over time and what factors will effect public policy regarding future safety. The history of seismic disasters and recovery, therefore, represents an indispensable tool for understanding our present and future perceptions and actions."

Follow-up action

The Armenian earthquake and its aftermath initially generated a heightened awareness of the enormous human and physical costs of constructing inappropriate or inadequate structures in seismically-active regions. This needs to be exploited to make public policy more sensitive to the importance of planning and constructing safer human settlements in seismically-active regions. This can only be achieved when two-way horizontal and vertical communications and collaboration between earth scientists, engineers, architects, planners, public officials and the concerned population have been put into place. In view of the shortage of specialists in the assessment of seismic risk and its role in the planning process, as well as pre-disaster and post-disaster planning for the reduction of seismic risk, **the Symposium strongly recommended that an international training course be established in the TbilZNIIEP with technical support from UNCHS (Habitat) and Goscomarchitecture.**

As a result, UNCHS (Habitat) and Goscomarchitecture are, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, developing a training course project to train some 45 middle-level professionals (earth scientists, engineers, architects and planners) from developing countries in applied methods to reduce seismic risks in developing countries.

The course will use a broad interdisciplinary approach and will emphasize the use of microcomputer-based simulation models as decision-making tools in creating safer built environments. The training will be conducted by foreign and Soviet experts.

Rental housing in developing countries: A review of the present situation

Although renting and sharing are the dominant forms of tenure in many cities, they have been seriously neglected in research and policy-making. National housing and development strategies do not usually take account of the rental sector — probably because attention has been focused on encouraging access to house ownership as the desired form of tenure.

It is, however, the responsibility of all governments to widen the range of housing options available to each income group. Different households need and demand different types of housing and tenure, including various forms of non-ownership.

In order to promote the role of rental housing in meeting shelter needs, research needs to be carried out in the following areas: the nature of low-income landlordism and the motives for letting; tenure preferences among different income and ethnic groups; landlord-tenant relations; the effects of rent and other legal controls; and the role of tenants' co-operatives and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in expanding and improving the rental housing stock.

An Expert Group Meeting on Rental Housing in Developing Countries was called to review the situation and to exchange experiences on renting in different parts of the world. It took place at Rotterdam from 9 to 13 October, 1989, with 22 participants from a dozen countries offering their views and experiences.

In line with the recently-adopted Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, the Meeting aimed to:

(a) Review recent research and promote new research on the role of rental housing among the urban poor;

(b) Formulate recommendations for promoting effective rental housing markets in cities of developing countries;

(c) Identify measures to support the development of formal and informal rental markets;

(d) Suggest the role that the United Nations and other international agencies could play in support of governmental and non-governmental rental-housing strategies.

The recommendations below aim to call attention to an important and often neglected sector of the market, and to suggest policies which can support its development, with a particular focus on improving the housing conditions of the poor.

The Meeting recommended that governments should:

(1) Review their housing policies and devise appropriate strategies for rental housing which remove biases against non-owners;

(2) In the context of an enabling role for governments in national shelter strategies, facilitate rental housing through a wide variety of measures;

(3) Review the role of the public sector as landlord;

(4) Analyse and consider incentives and disincentives for private investment in rental housing, compared with other productive investment, with a view to removing constraints, reducing unintended barriers to investment, lowering costs and improving affordability. This is subject to safeguards which would protect the access of low-income groups to affordable housing, bearing in mind the fact that some supposed safeguard measures have actually had negative impacts on intended beneficiaries;

(5) Facilitate investments in settlement improvement in informal settlements, in order to support improvement of housing and expansion of rental accommodation;

(6) Review the roles that co-operative-type organizations and NGOs play in the housing sector and seek to remove existing constraints and expand their contribution to low-income rental housing;

(7) Review the legal framework related to rental housing and current rent controls, and, in many cases, gradually relax rent-control measures;

(8) In their urban-improvement programmes pay attention to the problems of residential stability, particularly of low-income tenants living in project areas.

Developing a strategy for incorporating income- and employment-generating activities in human settlements programmes

An Expert Group Meeting was held at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters in Nairobi from 13 to 17 November 1989. Its purpose was to develop a strategy for incorporating income- and employment-generating activities in housing projects or human settlements programmes. Emphasis was placed on the promotion of income generation and employment creation through the indigenous construction sector and through building-materials production appropriate for low-income housing. Income-generating activities outside the construction sector were also considered, along with employment in the provision and maintenance of urban basic services.

A secondary objective of the Meeting was to elicit ideas for applied research projects that could be initiated by the Centre, to demonstrate the linkages between shelter, settlements and economic development.

On behalf of the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), Mr. Don Okpala, Officer-in-Charge of the Shelter and Community Services Section of the Research and Development Division, formally opened the Meeting. After welcoming the 16 participants, Mr. Okpala gave a brief introduction on UNCHS (Habitat). He stressed the importance of the Meeting, especially in support of the recently-adopted Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

Ms. Kirsten Karanfilovic, Human Settlements Officer of the Shelter and Community Services Section, then explained the objectives and organization of the Meeting, which she chaired and officially closed.

The background paper "Incorporating Income- and Employment-generating Activities in Human Settlements Programmes" provided a conceptual framework for the Meeting. The paper and the agenda were structured so that each agenda item dealt with a corresponding section of the paper. An introductory discussion revolved around employment, income generation and human settlements; it concluded that the linkages between income and housing are among the most crucial elements to be taken into account when planning and designing human settlements programmes.

The Meeting was structured to enable the Expert Group to discuss the overall theme of employment related to human settlements in three principal sections:

(a) Employment and income generation in the construction and building materials production sector;

(b) Promoting employment creation and income generation in low-income settlements;

(c) Employment and labour absorption in

Strategy framework

- a methodology for developing strategies to stimulate income generation and employment creation in low-income human settlements programmes

Area	Objective	Focus	Actors	Strategy / Institutional support
1. Construction and building materials production	To strengthen local potential and options in construction (building structures, infrastructure and related areas)	- Technology level and building materials	- Government [a]	Create sustainable local potential and create options through an integrated approach of three elements of focus: technology level, skill formation and local organization
		- Skill formation	- NGOs	
		- Local organization	- Community	
		- Regulatory framework [b]	- Private sector	
2. Urban basic services	To promote local management for maintenance and improvement of services	- Local organization and management	- Government / community collaboration	Improve services/reduce costs, define new responsibilities, create work
		- Regulatory framework	- Private sector	
3. Local economic activities [c]	To facilitate local economic development	- Support mechanism	- Government	Direct support (technical, managerial and financial, links with trade organizations and workers' associations), modify regulatory framework to facilitate economic development
		- Enterprise promotion	- NGOs	
		- Finance	- Financial institutions	
		- Regulatory framework	- Private sector	

[a] "Government" refers to local and/or national government.

[b] The regulatory framework encompasses land-use planning, lay-out design, building bye-laws and regulations, and trade and manufacturing regulations.

[c] Local economic activities include retail, services and manufacturing businesses in houses or in low-income neighbourhoods as well as rental housing.

the provision and maintenance of urban basic services.

The Expert Group discussed the potential and constraints under each topic in plenary and in working groups, contributing their own particular experience and knowledge. It also discussed the institutional support mechanisms required to promote income and employment opportunities, and measures to ensure their implementation.

To stimulate discussions on the topics, site visits were arranged to a brick and roof-tile factory in Ruaraka, and to formal and informal housing areas in Nairobi and its environs.

Guest lecturers, who also acted as resource persons, further contributed to the Meeting, and presented papers on such topics as "Steel versus tile roofing — what's appropriate for Kenya?", "Incorporating employment-generating activities in human settlements", "A comparative case study on the role and provision of community services in the low-income settlement areas of Manyatta, Nyalenda/Pandipieri in Kisumu, Kenya", and "Credit schemes for small-scale enterprise development". The site visits and guest lectures provided useful exposure to problems experienced in the field and directed discussions towards an understanding of the complexity of reality.

The Expert Group adopted the background paper with minor changes and included in its report a methodology for strategy formulation and proposals for further action. (See the relevant table, "Strategy framework".) The report of the Meeting is intended to provide a framework which will enable policy-makers, professionals and practitioners to analyse specific employment and human settlements situations at both the national and local levels, and to develop national and sub-national strategies with the overall objective of promoting employment creation and income generation through human settlements programmes. It is to be published this year.

UNCHS (Habitat)/UNIDO interregional EGM on building materials industry in Africa and Asia

In the framework of joint UNCHS (Habitat)/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) co-operation and as part of the preparatory work for the Second Consultation on the Building Materials Industry, an interregional Expert Group Meeting on the building materials industry for Africa and Asia was held at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters from 20 to 23 November 1990.

The Meeting was intended to analyse the current situation of the building-materials sector in those regions, identify common problems confronting the industry (by examining constraints that tend to limit the wide use of locally-produced building materials at the national level) plus possible areas for regional and interregional co-operation and technology transfer, and, finally, to agree on key issues for consideration at the Second Consultation on the Building Materials Industry, to be held in late 1990.

In his opening speech, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), stressed the advantages that a well-developed building-materials industry could offer in improving the quality of shelter, generating employment and creating capital through the reduction of demand for imported goods. In recognition of the importance of the construction sector in economic development, Dr. Ramachandran advocated the formulation of a government policy which could lead to the wide use of locally-produced building materials. He pointed out the need for the assessment of national resources, existing codes and regulations, standards and contracting methods, as tools for the identification of potential constraints to the wide application of indigenous building materials.

On behalf of the Director-General of UNIDO, Mr. Christian Gillen said that UNIDO viewed the system of consultations as a forum for interaction among developing and developed countries, and international agencies. He encouraged the participants to examine the main issues of the sector and come up with specific recommendations for discussion at the Second Consultation.

Participants from the following countries attended the Meeting: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The four-day Meeting, after lengthy discussion and exchange of views, came up with specific conclusions and recommended the following issues to be taken up at the Second Consultation:

- Strategies and policies for the integrated development of the building materials industry, with special emphasis on low-cost building materials;
- Technological development for the production of low-cost building materials.

Training modules on community participation in problem-solving and decision-making

The DANIDA/UNCHS (Habitat) Training Programme for Community Participation recently published three training modules on problem-solving and decision-making. These modules, (1) *Basic Principles*, (2) *Leadership* and (3) *Managing Conflict*,[*] form part of a series of training modules on community participation in improving human settlements.

The first module sets out the basic framework for community participation in problem-solving and decision-making. It introduces a number of key concepts related to analysing problem situations and preparing action plans. It presents a three-stage process of problem-solving and decision-making, which is made up of eight operational steps. The aim of this manual on basic principles is to encourage participatory approaches in problem-solving and decision-making. In each chapter, there are various tasks which invite the trainee to reflect on his own experience and to practice the skills that are described.

The second module focuses on the problems and potentials of leading project staff and community groups through problem-solving and decision-making activities. The activities or tasks included in the text are mainly designed for group work. The aim is that the tasks should stimulate ideas which will then be followed by discussion.

The third module concentrates on the conflicts that are bound to occur in coping with the problems of human settlements projects. This module on managing conflict contains elaborate simulation exercises, which would form the core activities of any workshop based on the text.

The recommendations on community participation in problem-solving and decision-making procedures to be found in these training modules are based on a number of basic assumptions. These principles are:

(1) The most productive act in problem-solving is to become aware of the problem.

This is the central paradox of all development work: starting off by trying to change conditions often complicates and increases the problem, whereas seeking first to understand the problem begins the actual process of solving it.

(2) Every problem-situation can be seen as a field of forces — psychological, social, political, economic and cultural — in a state of tension.

To solve a problem — to effect productive change — we must first identify what forces are at work and how they operate. Then, rather than search for the one "cause" of the problem we must explore to find those places where we can effectively intervene in the field of forces in order to change the state of tension.

(3) Effective decisions depend on valid information.

"Valid" means both accurate and complete. To make a comparison, the process of problem-solving is like a recipe for cooking a meal; the recipe depends on having the right ingredients. In problem-solving, the ingredients are the facts and knowledge that make up the information.

(4) Working with others, especially those who are most affected by the problem, can improve the problem-solving process.

Therefore it is important that project staff members and community leaders be sensitive to factors that influence the performance of a group and are able to use the recommended procedures in group settings.

(5) Achieving good results from the implementation of a valid decision requires that those who are implementing the decision both understand it and are committed to it.

A decision might be technically sound but politically unacceptable. Those carrying out the decision might be uncommitted to, or ill-prepared for, action.

(6) The community worker as "change agent" or "facilitator" must develop a supportive environment.

The people who are experiencing the problem should share in making decisions for change. Those who are involved in the problem-solving process should be able to communicate openly about the problems they are experiencing. However, change often generates conflict about methods, objectives and resources. Therefore it is vital that project staff members and community leaders be sensitive to the causes of conflict in human settlements projects — and that they possess skills of conflict management which harmonize with the principles of community participation.

Thus, effective problem-solving in human settlements projects must, itself, be a process of community participation.

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[*] *Community Participation in Problem Solving and Decision-Making*

(1) *Basic Principles, HS/159/89 E*

(2) *Leadership, HS/160/89 E*

(3) *Managing Conflict, HS/161/89 E*

Donors meet to prepare for the challenges of supplying water and sanitation in the coming decade

During the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD), bilateral, multilateral and NGOs gradually increased their collaboration at country, regional and global levels. Encouraged by the success of this collaboration, these organizations decided to create an informal Collaborative Council to provide a forum to further encourage collaboration amongst themselves and the developing countries and to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information. The major objective in creating the Council was to continue in the 1990s the efforts started during the Decade, which concludes at the end of 1990, and to improve, through co-operation, the effectiveness of each organization's country-level activities.

-Collaborative Council

The Council met at the end of November 1989 in Sophia Antipolis, France, to develop a consensus in donor strategies for more effective expansion of water supply and sanitation services in developing countries in the 1990s. The strategies developed through the Sophia Antipolis meeting are intended to be presented to the Global Consultation On Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s to be held at New Delhi from 10 to 13 September 1990. This Consultation will be the high point of the activities of the Collaborative Council and will serve as an opportunity for discussions with and among developing countries and external support agencies (ESAs), to agree on the formulated strategies and launch new initiatives for environmentally sound and sustainable water supply and sanitation services for the 1990s and beyond.

The Sophia Antipolis meeting considered the following five themes:

(a) Sustainable water supply and sanitation coverage in urban areas;

(b) Sustainable water supply and sanitation coverage in rural areas;

(c) Water resources management issues of water supply and sanitation;

(d) Environmental issues of water supply and sanitation; and

(e) Financial resource generation.

Background papers covering each of the above themes were presented to separate working groups for their deliberation and for purposes of developing clear strategies and identifying potential areas of work where the efforts of external support agencies could best be focused in the coming decade.

-Urban Working Group

UNCHS (Habitat) was represented at the meeting by Mr. Gehan Sinnatamby, who was also nominated to be the chairman of the Working Group on Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Coverage in Urban Areas. The Group felt that sector activities should be geared towards full water supply and sanitation coverage, giving due emphasis and priority to sustainability, serving the unserved, and environmental protection, all within the context of effective urban management. In order to achieve this, the Group suggested that the principal strategy for the sector should be two-fold:

(a) Better use of existing facilities and local resources, both financial and manpower;

(b) New investments to be concentrated on extending coverage to unserved areas.

The Group saw that the thrust of the activities to achieve the above should be focused on:

(a) Institutional development and capacity building both technical and financial;

(b) Information exchange and dissemination on country experiences, research and institutional and financial models used to reach all levels of society;

(c) Applied research, especially in the area of reducing water loss, conservation and recycling, and developing suitable models for delivering basic services to low-income communities;

(d) User involvement, community participation and partnership with NGOs, women and the private sector;

(e) Choice of technology and level of service to be compatible with willingness to pay, e.g., meeting the effective demand;

(f) Integrating the provision of water supply and sanitation facilities with other related sectors with governments acting as facilitators to enable overall community and human settlements development.

The Group identified a range of ways in which ESAs could best assist the sector at the country level. Specific actions were defined for areas such as institutional and financial capacity building, technology development and transfer, human-resource development, applied research information and dissemination.

-Global Consultation

The Global Consultation will focus on strategies with an integrated approach through country- and local-level planning and programming along four main themes:

(a) Towards serving the unserved: Improving the approaches and the institutional framework with special emphasis on human resources development;

(b) Management of water resources and the environment in terms of quality of human life;

(c) Financial strategies and options: Adequacy and sustainability;

(d) Evolution of systems development, including approaches and technologies.

UNCHS (Habitat) is one of the agencies that will be assisting the secretariat for the Global Consultation with the development of the theme of serving the unserved.

UNCHS (Habitat)/India/USSR co-operate in the building-materials sector

A fundamental step in achieving effective technology transfer in local-building-materials development among developing countries is through co-operation in information flow. In this connection, UNCHS (Habitat) together with the Governments of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) have launched a joint project on international co-operation in technology transfer for the production of indigenous building materials and components in developing countries. As part of the planned activities of the programme, a mission composed of experts from India and the USSR specializing in various disciplines of building-materials production joined UNCHS (Habitat) staff in a visit to the United Republic of Tanzania from 9 to 24 January 1990.

The purpose of their mission was to define a programme of **technical assistance to the United Republic of Tanzania** in the field of building-materials production **based on** a strategy of **technology transfer**, taking into account the potential for building-materials development in the country and the characteristics of production technologies that have been identified in India and in the USSR.

During their stay in the United Republic of Tanzania, the experts visited a number of large- and small-scale building-materials production plants and met with Government officials, entrepreneurs and the Resident Representative of UNDP. The mission collected relevant data and information on existing capacities, shortcomings, and prospects for future development of the building-materials sector in the United Republic of Tanzania, and proposed a strategy for improvement through the transfer of selected technologies from India and the USSR. It focused on:

(a) Recent trends in demand for basic building materials generated from different parts of the construction sector;

(b) The inherent development potential of the building-materials sector based on the natural resources of the country;

(c) Current production trends and constraints faced by the local industry.

The mission also identified a number of technologies which it considered relevant for actual transfer from India and the USSR. These include building lime, gypsum and gypsum products, clay-bricks, soil and concrete blocks, roofing material and ferrocement.

A special report of the mission which defines the framework of a strategy for technology transfer, will serve as a background paper in an **International workshop** to be organized **In Riga**, USSR, expected in May 1990. Speaking at a press briefing on 19 January 1990, H.E. Mr. Albert J. Krols, Chairman of the State Committee on Construction Affairs of the Latvian SSR, told journalists that 30 countries had been invited to send participants to the workshop. It is expected that the modalities of technology transfer in the case of the United Republic of Tanzania will establish a basis for adopting a similar approach in those countries.(photo, page 13)

TRAINING UPDATE

■ Training Course on Development, Planning and Construction - La Cambre, Belgium

For the second consecutive year, UNCHS (Habitat) has co-sponsored the annual training course on "Développement - Aménagement - Construction" (Development - Planning - Construction) organized by the Institute of Architecture of La Cambre in Brussels, Belgium, from 21 February to 4 May 1990 and funded by the Government of Belgium. Twenty-six participants are attending the Course, representing eight Latin American and 16 African countries. It is focused on a comparative analysis of urbanization, urban development and urban administration and building construction in Africa, Europe and Latin America. Participants were able to exchange experiences and compare professional practices with various European institutions and counterparts and to evaluate architectural, urban planning and management tools and techniques. The Course included extensive field visits to local authorities, planning bureaux, housing agencies and municipal lending institutions. Participants also worked on specific assignments related to their national contexts and problems.

■ Training of Trainers Course in Urban Finance and Management for Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia

A Training of Trainers (TOT) Course in Urban Finance and Management was held at Tangier, Morocco, from 19 February to 9 March 1990. Participants attending the course were trainers from key national training institutes, centres and directorates responsible for training local government staff in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

The Course was hosted by the Directorate of Training of the Ministry of the Interior of Morocco and co-organized and co-funded by UNCHS (Habitat), the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank, the Regional Office for Housing and Urban Development for Near East and North Africa (RHUDO-NENA) of USAID and the Regional Bureau for Arab States and Europe of United Nations Development Fund (UNDP).

Participants had the opportunity to refine their training skills and tools. These included the development and use of case studies, simulation games, communications and presentation techniques, group dynamics and training design, delivery and evaluation. The substantive issues dealt with during the Course included resource mobilization, expenditure control/budgeting, and management information systems for municipal management. Participants also developed their own action plans for implementing and evaluating training activities and components back home.

This is the first of a series of training activities designed to strengthen the institutional training capabilities of the three countries involved. The programme will span a three-year period for which priority activities were identified by the Governments concerned during a design and strategy seminar held in Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia, from 29 January to 4 February 1989 (see article in UNCHS HABITAT NEWS, April 1989). During this period, feedback from the impact of training will be obtained on a systematic basis in order to improve and refine training needs and priorities and to identify national follow-up activities. The next training activity will be a workshop to be held in Tunisia on systematic training needs assessment followed by the development, field-testing and dissemination of software and training ware for simulating municipal expenditures and budgeting.

■ UNCHS (Habitat) demand-driven approach to training

The three-year training programme for Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia is illustrative of the UNCHS (Habitat) training approach which increasingly focuses on demand-driven training. This approach involves in-depth assessment of the capabilities of national and regional training institutions, prior identification and prioritization of training needs by the countries concerned, the organization of multi-year pilot training activities common to several countries within a subregion in support of ongoing and planned activities at the national levels and the establishment of feedback procedures and mechanisms for identifying follow-up activities (see Figure 1). Similar programmes are already underway in Latin America under the Urban Finance and Management Project co-organized and co-funded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), UNCHS (Habitat), EDI, CELCADEL/IULA and others, and a series of Urban Finance and Management Courses for East and Southern Africa co-organized and co-funded by UNCHS (Habitat), EDI and USAID as reported regularly in this newsletter.

-Development of generic training materials and training ware

This demand-driven approach to training is further strengthened by the development, field-testing and dissemination of generic training materials and training ware, management tools and instruments designed specifically for training institutions and centres responsible for the continuous training of municipal management staff. The most recent materials include:

- "Guide for Managing Change for Urban Managers and Trainers". The guide covers general management and organizational development skills needed by urban managers. It was developed and field-tested within the East and Southern

African and South Asian training programmes and jointly published by UNCHS (Habitat)/EDI/USAID. It has also been translated into Spanish by CEL-CADEL/IULA for use in the Latin American programme;

- "Le budget municipal - un outil de gestion" developed and field-tested in French-speaking West Africa and jointly published by UNCHS (Habitat) and EDI. This guide provides trainers with an operational overview of key municipal accounting and budgeting methods and tools, showing how these tools can make use of existing databases and information to enable municipal authorities to undertake integrated multi-year budgeting and planning exercises;
- "Gestion financière municipale en Afrique" (jointly published by UNCHS (Habitat)/EDI and Institut International de l'Administration Publique (IIAP-France)). This two-part manual, which includes computer software and training ware for use by trainers, is designed to enable trainers and trainees to simulate key decisions in revenue collection, expenditure control and the interaction between them for budgeting and planning purposes. One of the two volumes is devoted to training ware; it includes guidelines for trainers, step-by-step instructions for using the computer software, exercises, training notes and suggested formats for conducting individual training sessions and a set of overhead transparencies for use during training.

-Case studies

In addition to the above, case studies on innovative approaches and experiences in urban management and resource mobilization have been edited and published for wider dissemination by UNCHS (Habitat), EDI and IULA. These case studies include:

- "Administration et mobilisation des ressources - les moyens du Trésor à Dakar" (UNCHS (Habitat)/EDI);
- "Administration et mobilisation des ressources - le cas des taxes rémunératoires de marché à Dakar" (UNCHS (Habitat)/EDI);
- "Les critères de répartition des aides de l'Etat" (UNCHS (Habitat)/EDI);
- "La modernisation de la fiscalité économique dans les pays en voie de développement (PVD) - le cas de l'actualisation de la patente à Dakar" (UNCHS (Habitat)/EDI);
- "Les critères de choix d'un mode de gestion et de recouvrement de coûts à partir du cas du ramassage des ordures ménagères à Cotonou" (UNCHS (Habitat)/EDI);
- "Innovative Experiences in Local Finance in South Asia" (UNCHS (Habitat)/IULA).

Other case studies are currently being prepared by the Urban Management Programme, which will also provide valuable insights into innovative experiences and approaches in the field of municipal finance and management.

-Global database/information system on training resources and capabilities

A global database/information retrieval system based on first-hand information and assessment missions to training institutions further complements the effort by providing information on available expertise, training curricula and human resources. The information retrieval system is due to come on-line in the course of 1990 and provide field projects, United Nations agencies, bilateral and multilateral assistance agencies with readily accessible data and information on, *inter alia*, institutional status and structure, training, research and consultancy activities, publications, training materials and training ware, staff resources and expertise in developing countries. UNCHS (Habitat) plans to expand the database/information system to include training resources and capabilities in developed countries targeted specifically at such countries.

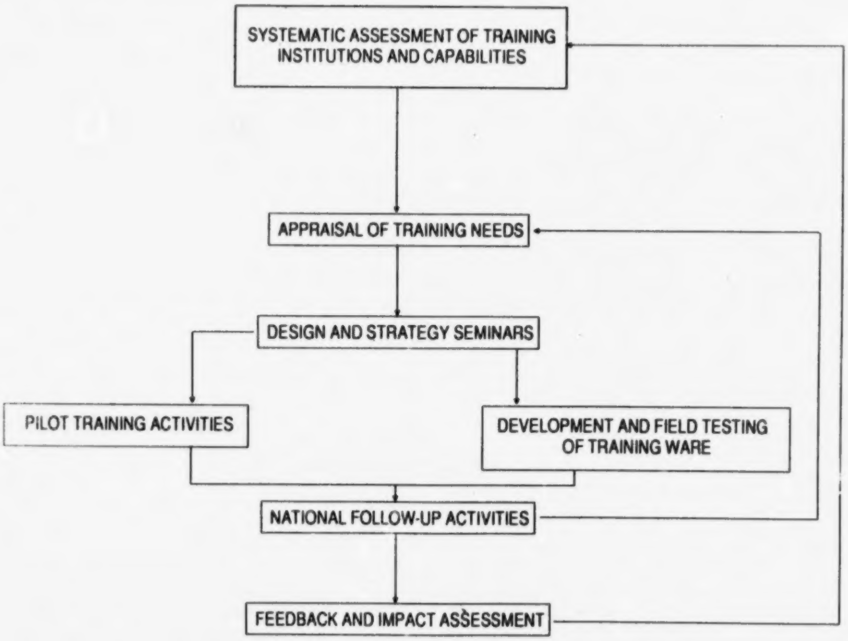
SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND CAPABILITIES
APPRAISAL OF TRAINING NEEDS
DESIGN AND STRATEGY SEMINARS
PILOT TRAINING ACTIVITIES
DEVELOPMENT AND FIELD TESTING OF TRAINING WARE
NATIONAL FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES
FEEDBACK AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Figure 1. Regional and subregional training strategy for training and human resource development in urban finance and management

WOMEN AND THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR SHELTER:

Seminar to Promote the Participation of Women in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

INTRODUCTION

"One conclusion has emerged from the regional seminars. It is the recognition that without the mobilization and participation of women — and the removal of the obstacles to their full participation — the goal of the Global Strategy of providing adequate shelter for all cannot and will not be met."

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), was addressing 25 professionals in the field of human settlements who met at Nairobi, Kenya, from 4 to 8 December 1989 to develop a plan of action which would be adopted by national governments, to promote the full participation of women in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

The participants from Colombia, India, Kenya, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Zambia, represented five regions of the globe. There was keen interest in the seminar from bilateral agencies, which were invited as participants/observers. They represented Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United States of America. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the Habitat International Coalition (HIC), Mazingira Institute, Homeless International, Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI), International Groots, Council for Human Ecology and VAC — Women Advisory Committee of the Netherlands — took an active part. The World Bank, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) represented United Nations agencies concerned with the topic of women and shelter, while Shelter-Afrique, a financial institution for housing in Africa, was also represented at the meeting. All participated in the discussion; and the active exchanges in the working groups laid the groundwork for eventual agreement on a strategy.

Organizers and participants at work during the Seminar

UNCHS (Habitat) has strongly supported the issue of women's participation in the development of human settlements and, with financial assistance from the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway, took the initiative in 1987 to explore ways and means to increase the role of women in settlements management and development. This was done through five seminars for Africa (English- and French-speaking), Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. The seminars attracted high-level policy-makers dealing with the human settlements sector and women's affairs. During the seminars they critically analysed the constraints to women's participation in issues concerning housing policy, land, finance and construction.

The five-day interregional seminar had the following as its objectives: to exchange information among regions on the developments since the regional seminars; to develop a strategy to include women in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; and to recommend the types of technical and financial resources which would be needed by governments and NGOsin the implementation of the Strategy. Indeed the Global Strategy is specific in the role and contribution of women:

> "Women as income-earners, home-makers and heads of households and women's organizations fulfil a crucial role as contributors to the solution of human settlements problems which should be fully recognized and reflected in equal participation of women in the elaboration of housing policies, programmes and projects."

The Executive Director quite aptly posed the question: "Why encourage the participation of women in the Global Strategy?". The answer, he asserted, was to be found in the very processes of social and economic development which had changed the roles and responsibilities of women. A noteworthy example was the growing phenomenon of female-headed households in developing countries. Yet, women's legal status had not been subjected to a similar transformation. "This situation deters women from fulfilling their new roles and from becoming fully productive members of society."

Economic hardships, legal, moral, religious and cultural constraints must, he added, be removed to allow equal participation by women in

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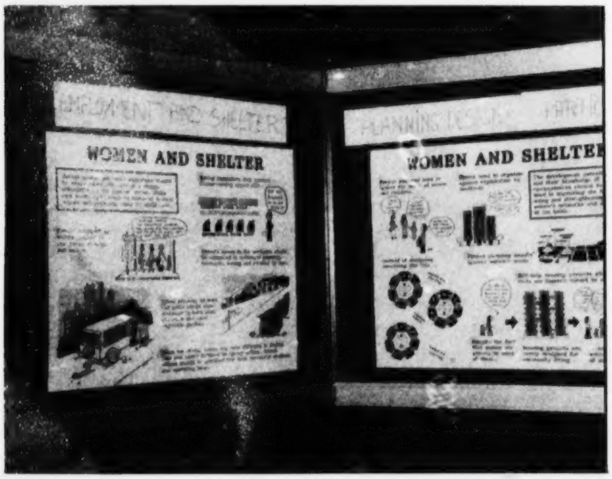


shelter construction and improvement programmes. **Women can and will be the most committed advocates and protagonists of a strategy to improve shelter conditions. They must be empowered to be able to improve their habitat.**

Dr. Ramachandran concluded his address with an appeal to representatives of women's organizations and public institutions concerned with women's issues to reach out to women in their respective countries and to assist them to improve their shelter conditions. Just as mobilizing and enabling women to participate will contribute to the goals of the Strategy, specific measures aimed at giving women greater access to housing, land, finance, education and training will enhance the status of women in society and open the road to their full equality.

FINDINGS FROM REGIONAL SEMINARS

Overview

Ms. Sylvie Lacroux, Human Settlements Officer, UNCHS (Habitat), gave a brief overview of the findings from the regional seminars.

"The World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women in 1985 spearheaded UNCHS (Habitat)'s programme on women's needs and participation in the human settlements sector. Very little was known about women in this sector in 1985. Our initial research was to identify the specific needs of women. This also revealed the fact that women were very active in the development process. UNCHS (Habitat) planned five regional seminars within 1988 to 1989, during which four major issues were discussed: women and housing policy, women and land, women's access to finance for housing, and women in the construction sector.

"We learnt from these seminars that women's participation in housing **policy** is still rather low. Policies developed at national levels ignore women's needs at the community and local levels.

"Participants at each of the regional seminars agreed that women's access to **land** was difficult due to existing legislative factors and to cultural norms. Even when changes to legislation gave women the right to own land, they were not always well informed about the legal changes and procedures and could not therefore make full use of their rights. Since land ownership provided a form of collateral when women needed finance to construct shelter or engage in income-generating activities, it was imperative to develop strategies to sensitize policy-makers, and NGOs on the needs of women, *vis-à-vis* land-tenure rights, and urge them to remove all constraints to land acquisition by women.

"In the **construction** sector it was recognized that traditionally women are the main builders and users of houses and infrastructure yet currently their participation in the formal construction sector is minimal due to the modern technology adopted by national governments. Women need training as well as financial assistance to be engaged in the sector.

"Women's access to **finance** for housing is impeded by traditions. Women heads-of-household are faced with numerous problems if they wish to secure loans from financial institutions. The procedures are prohibitive and cumbersome. Interest rates charged are much too high. Women simply do not have the sort of employment which would guarantee regular loan repayment. Nor do they have the collateral as security for a loan. During the regional seminars, participants discussed major constraints to their active participation at all levels. They also shared positive experiences in their efforts to overcome some of the constraints. This was deemed an important exercise towards integrating women into the planning and management of settlements."

Selected actions

Following Ms. Lacroux's briefing on the findings from the regional seminars, Ms. Caroline Pezzullo, the UNCHS (Habitat) consultant co-ordinating the Meeting, invited participants to report on action

Group photograph from the Seminar to Promote the Participation of Women in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

taken in their respective countries since the regional meetings. The following are reports from selected participants.

Ms. Catalina Hinchey Trujillo

Director, FEDEVIVIENDA (National Federation of Self-help Community Housing Organizations), Colombia.

"It is obvious to everybody that most countries in the Latin American region are going through a serious economic crisis. Foreign debt and inflation have affected countries like Argentina, Colombia and Peru. This economic situation takes its toll on women in all spheres of society, particularly women in low-income settlements. They have no access to the formal employment sector. The only alternative is menial jobs in the informal sector, to earn a mere pittance to support their families, what we call '*el rebusque*'. That means selling food on street corners, shining shoes and cleaning cars. Regrettably, women's need for a new space within settlements is not given the support it deserves.

"Violence on the streets in some cities makes life even more difficult to cope with. Women, men and children are pleading for more security. It is incredible that today we have to plead for the right to stay alive. The second plea is the opportunity to participate within the public sphere.

"The one positive outcome of the current situation is that in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and all of the Central American

Dr. Ramachandran with Caroline Pezzullo, UNCHS (Habitat) consultant, and Phoebe Asiyo, UNIFEM countries, the grassroots groups are coming together, they are becoming a real force within their society. They are voicing their needs, they are demanding the right to be listened to, and they are successfully effecting change.

"In the Latin American countries, the problem is not so much the organization of women; women are organized. They know what they want but they need help for their dream for a better life to become a reality."

Ms. Diana Lee-Smith

Editor, Settlements Information Network Africa, Mazingira Institute, Nairobi, Kenya.

"Through the Settlements Information Network Africa (SINA) we have been working on a promotion of construction and housing co-operatives in the region. In addition, we have been able to identify projects by African NGOs for financial support by Swedish NGOs, which involve women in the production of building materials, training and setting up of credit facilities.

"The Governments in African countries have been very active in promoting grassroots organizations. I think the classic example is the Mozambique latrine construction co-operatives, where men and women in poor neighbourhoods are able to earn an income by producing latrine covers and promoting correct latrine construction. This co-operative not only provides enormous health benefits in poor neighbourhoods; it also generates a much-needed income with which to improve the quality of life. This is just one way in which one government has been able to help grassroots movements. There are quite a number of such movements involving women throughout Africa, but they are crying out for more support both from governments and NGOs."

Ms. Gwendoline Williams

Lecturer, Department of Management Studies, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

"Our Government has an anti-poverty approach to development. The poor has been identified as a special group that should receive a lot of assistance from the State. Thirty-three to 40 per cent of the working population within that group are women heads-of-household. Within the last three years women received 2400 out of 8000 plots during a land distribution exercise.

"The Sou-Sou land policy, an NGO-initiated policy which aims to develop self-sustaining communities, is being promoted by the Government. The Ministry of Settlements and Public Utilities is headed by a very dynamic Minister, a woman, Minister Nicholson. She has given the Board of the National Housing Authority the mandate to implement the Sou-Sou land policy. I am the chairperson of this board. Through research we have learnt what problems women are faced with. Our efforts to assist women include special interest rates on mortgages. We have a criterion for making land accessible to women which takes into account earnings in the informal sector. Single-headed households are given consideration and assistance.

"The achievements since the seminar in Saint Vincent may not be that great, but like the Sou-Sou concept of little by little, by getting the right people in the right place, we will develop an unshakable system which considers the needs of both genders."

Ms. Ruth McLeod

Homeless International, Coventry, United Kingdom.

"A significant attempt has been made at the national level in the Caribbean to develop housing policies. There is also a realization that government cannot deliver all that is required by people in the sector, so we are talking far more about facilitating and enabling kinds of models.

"With respect to women's participation, we hear a lot of calls for women's participation as if they are not participating! In the Caribbean region women are the mainstay producers and managers of housing in one way or another. Some of the new housing policies have emphasized the idea that people will deliver their own housing and that housing will essentially be privately owned. The significance of the rental market is being omitted in such policies, and this omission could pose difficulties for women. The Construction Resource and Development Centre in Jamaica had collected some data in order to examine informal-sector housing. When we disaggregated it a second time, changing the categories that we used so that we looked at female-headed, male-headed and joint-headed households, we found that female-headed households, for instance, had fewer assets, and 75 per cent of them were in fact renting. Yet, the rental market was not included as a significant part of the new housing policy."

In Nassau, Bahamas, in October 1989 the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, at its nineteenth Congress passed a resolution suggesting that National Federations and Associate Clubs:

(1) Urge that Governments establish policies and regulations for integrated urban planning and development;

(2) Co-operate with groups nationally and locally to deal with shelter issues which affect economic growth and new opportunities for women;

(3) Continue to be aware of the special needs of single employed women to secure safe affordable places to live;

(4) Take steps to make available where necessary, housing facilities for single employed women.

Futher coverage of the Seminar will follow in a forthcoming issue.

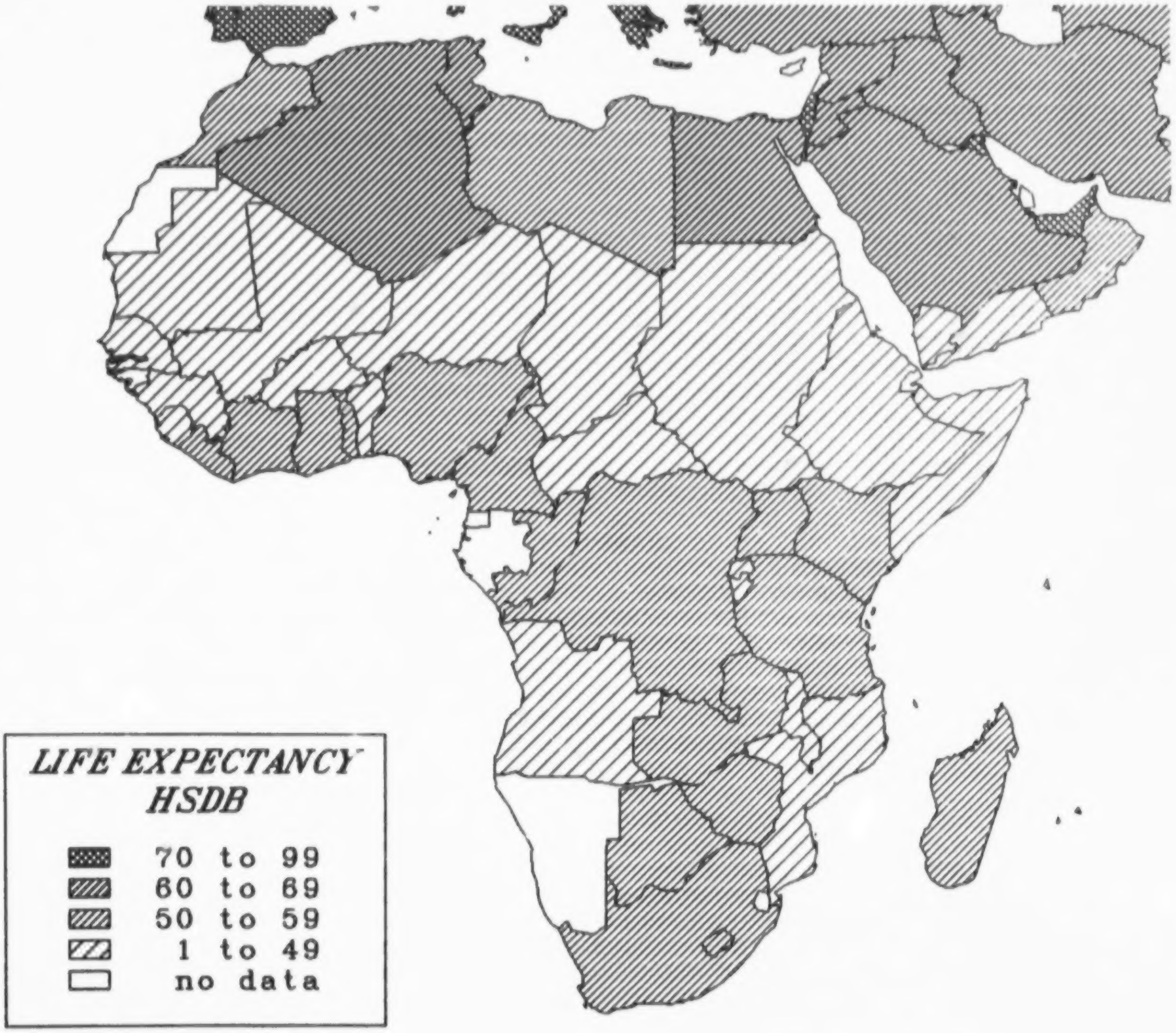
INFORMATION INITIATIVES

Creating a human settlements atlas

The first steps towards creating a global human settlements atlas are being taken by collaborative efforts of the Information, Audio-visual and Documentation Division and the Research and Development Division of UNCHS (Habitat). For the past twenty years or so, the generation of maps and database management have been applied to computers, while geographical information systems have been in use during the past decade. UNCHS (Habitat), for example, came up with an urban database management system (UDMS) package in the early 1980s. Semi-graphical, it could not use commercial database management packages, digitizers or plotters. Only ASCII format data could be used, thus making the data input process tedious. Additionally, the output did not allow any device other than a standard dot-matrix printer. The UDMS package is still an excellent educational package however, one which is widely distributed all around the world.

Now the Centre has gone beyond this good introduction and is seeking to combine statistics available through the Centre's HSDB.Stat software with the maps provided by a commercial package, MapInfo. This allows for graphic presentation of information using colours and hatching on maps to display a maximum of eight categories at a time. Once generated, a map showing, e.g., life expectancy in various countries, can be saved and used for later presentation. (The categories can also be further refined, to show countries with a life expectancy of, for example, 54 rather than those with 50 to 59 years.) Not only can maps be provided using a plotter, digitizer or printer, but slides can be taken using other commercial software.

The MapInfo system runs on any IBM AT compatible or 386-computer which has a 20-MB hard disk. All options are menu-driven, and a mouse can render use easier. This application can use dBASE III files and



AUTOCAD drawings as input. A large number of output devices (plotters, printers) are supported.

Representatives from donor agencies comment on the situation of women in human settlements

Janet Badjan Young, UNCHS (Habitat) Information Officer, elicited these comments in interviews with representatives from donor agencies attending the Seminar to Promote the Participation of Women in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

Ms. Gertje Segond Von Banchet

Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment, Directorate-General of Housing, International Relations Division, The Netherlands .

My first contact with many men and women from the southern part of Africa was during the UNCHS (Habitat) regional seminar in Zambia in November 1988. I arrived at the conclusion that the position of poor women in the urban areas in developing countries is totally different from the situation of women in developed countries. They are simply burdened with literally everything, and the lack of adequate housing, infrastructure and transportation makes it even more difficult. I noticed that, despite all these problems, women in Africa have enormous strength and are well organized to help each other and make the best of the situation.

What kind of assistance do you think developed countries should give to women in human settlements?

I think it is important to recognize that it is crucial to improve the situation of women, especially that of poor women. Only then can they invest in their living conditions. We must also realize that general development targets can only be achieved in an optimal way if women are active as the main operators of the change.

In the Netherlands, our Ministry of Development Co-operation executes a special programme on women's issues — Women and Development. I think it's a good thing for developed countries to have a special programme and a special budget for women's projects in the developing world.

What contribution will women's participation make to the Global Strategy for Shelter programmes?

The Global Strategy for Shelter will only be effective if it facilitates and encourages the participation of women. This is the only way we can ensure that the improvement of living conditions meets the basic needs of those who are most concerned about it.

What do you think the Seminar has achieved?

I think this Seminar made a very important contribution by specifying the different special actions that have to be incorporated in the Global Strategy, actions to facilitate and encourage the participation of women. I'm very grateful to UNCHS (Habitat) that it has devoted so much time and energy to these seminars.

Ms. Elisabet Viklund

Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning, Sweden .

Women are the consumers of housing. They don't have the same legal rights and they are not in the same situation as women in my country, but they have all the responsibility. In Sweden for example, very seldom does a woman sit at the negotiating table discussing bilateral aid. I think that that might be one of the reasons for the direction of so little aid towards the shelter sector.

Should there be a change of attitude towards women's needs, so that more emphasis can be placed on housing development?

The history of development in Sweden illustrates how dramatic changes can be made to living conditions. Seventy years ago the housing situation was very bad. It was the most appalling housing situation in the whole of Europe. Today we can boast of the highest standard of living.

There are many contributing factors to this success story, but the most effective was the co-operative movement of the poor. They got together, defined their needs and put the pressure on decision-makers to fulfil their requirements. We have a tradition of popular movements and they still play a very important part in our country. The movement, a group of people, formed their own co-operatives and an insurance company. Because they were united, they also became a powerful force to reckon with in the political arena.

What are your views on women's participation in the implementation of the Strategy? How feasible do you think this is, based on what you know about women in Africa and other developing countries?

It's going to be hard going, there is no doubt about that, but if we work together, support each other and see to it that the people who need the change are the engines of change, then the Strategy will work, but it will take time.

So you believe in the collective strength of women, you believe in their abilities?

Yes, and I believe that people who are in need are the ones who must be the engine of that change, to see that change materialize.

What positive changes would you like to see take place which would positively affect women during the years leading to the year 2000?

I would like to see many, many more women with their knowledge, experience, ambitions, dreams, hopes, willingness and capability to work to be at all levels of the planning and development process.

What do you think has been the major achievements of this Seminar?

It has spurred me to further promote the work we have been doing in the development of human settlements. When the report comes out, I will make a condensed version, translate it into Swedish, and see to it that it's presented to decision-makers, and those engaged in development work, to NGOs and women's groups. I would like those concerned with the issues to know that we are working all the time, taking a step at a time, making steady progress towards the goal of adequate shelter for all.

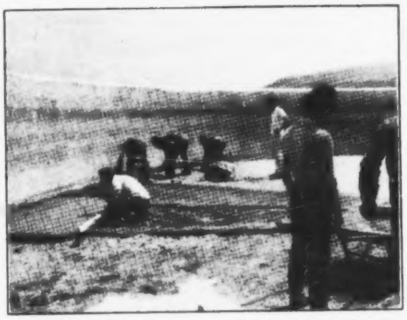
NEW FROM HABITAT

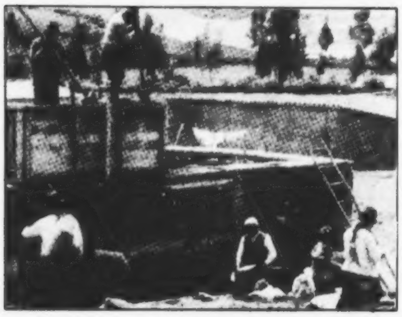
■ The Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, ii + 56 pp., HS/185/90E, ISBN92-1-131108-0

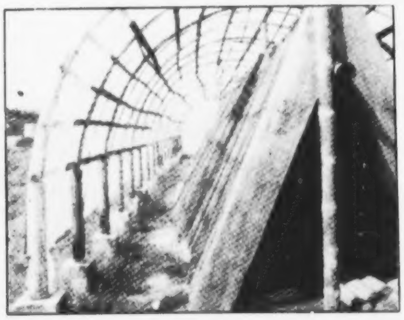
The Global Strategy is here presented in book form. Following an introduction, Section II illustrates why there should be a Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, summarizes the fundamental principles that should guide the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the Strategy and describes the new perceptions necessary to place national and international action in the correct perspective.

Section III contains guidelines for national action. It illustrates the general criteria which should guide governments in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the crucial part of the Strategy — national action — and details guidelines according to three areas: reorganization of the shelter sector, resource mobilization and allocation, and shelter production and improvement.

Section IV of the report contains draft guidelines for international action. Introduced by general principles, this set of guidelines illustrates the roles and responsibilities of







national governments, international agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and UNCHS (Habitat) in its capacity as the co-ordinating agency of the Strategy.

The text concludes with a Plan of Action and a timetable for implementation of the first phase of the Strategy. Annex I provides a national structure for shelter strategy formulation and Annex II the pertinent General Assembly resolution (43/181).

- **Human Settlements and Natural Disasters**, ii + 40 pp., colour and black-and-white photographs, maps, HS/156/89E, ISBN 92-1-131080-6

This publication is based on the UNCHS (Habitat) concept that although natural disasters cannot always be prevented, their effects can be reduced through a variety of measures, such as better construction standards, the definition of high-risk areas and activities of high vulnerability, improved land use, and the design of buildings and infrastructure systems to minimize their vulnerability.

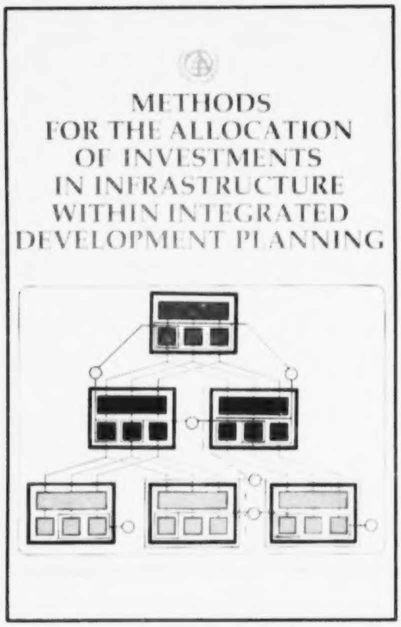
Examples ranging from Algeria through Mexico to Yemen and Yugoslavia are given of 15 pre-disaster and post-disaster projects implemented by the Centre, with a view to illustrating some of the measures available to mitigate future disasters. The aim is to foster greater disaster awareness and to enable disaster-prone countries to learn from each others' experience.

The disasters illustrated point to some of the key issues to be considered in developing strategies for disaster and reconstruction. Some examples show clearly that disasters provide an opportunity for governments to use their emergency powers to acquire sites, assemble land, and rationalize land-use patterns. Such programmes can also be used to improve the housing conditions of the poor, by training them in disaster-resistant construction methods. In this way, the effects of the calamity can be changed to an advantage and the disaster can become an agent for change, leading eventually, to improved human settlements.

■ **Methods for the Allocation of Investments in Infrastructure within Integrated Development Planning: An Overview for Development Planners and Administrators, iii + 57 pp., glossary, diagrams and tables, footnotes and mini-bibliographies in the form of "literature" references, HS/168/89 E, ISBN 92-1-131086-5**

This Overview provides a survey of 15 analytical methods for the planning and evaluation of infrastructure projects and programmes. It addresses itself mainly to planning administrators who are not themselves specialists in the fields of methodology, but who are, nevertheless, responsible for the preparation and for the implementation of projects and programmes. In order to meet the objective of a concise and understandable introduction to the methods of infrastructure planning, severe choices had to be made with respect to the number of methods and the level of detail of the respective descriptions.

The structure of the Overview reflects these considerations. It starts with a glossary of frequently-used technical terms to facilitate reading and to avoid misunderstanding. The Introduction provides an operational definition of infrastructure and throws some light on the role of infrastructure in the development process and the methodological problems of quantifying the effects of infrastructure investments. Chapter I puts infrastructure investment in the context of integrated development planning.


METHODS
FOR THE ALLOCATION
OF INVESTMENTS
IN INFRASTRUCTURE
WITHIN INTEGRATED
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Chapter II can be considered as the core of the publication. It relates the methods to typical development-planning tasks and situations. A number of tables analyse the suitability and degree of applicability of the whole range of methods in development-planning decision-making situations. Sections A and B of chapter II are extremely important since they exemplify the initial steps in the selection process for the appropriate method. In section C, a few examples of typical applications of appropriate methods are furnished. This chapter ends with a discussion of the high- priority topic of resource requirements and affordability aspects of the various methods.

Finally, chapter III deals with the description of the methods, whereas the previous chapters were more of a "user's guide".

■ **Mobilization of Financial Resources for Low-Income Groups, ii + 31 pp., boxes, tables, references, HS/167/89E, ISBN 92-1-131085-7**

Mobilization of savings to overcome the current shortage of long-term credit is the central issue in financing shelter and infrastructural development for low-income groups. The ability of the financial system to mobilize savings depends on the economic environment.

Three basic conditions are required for the functioning of the financial system: economic or monetary stability; a real return on financial investment; and confidence in the security and stability of financial institutions. Only if these conditions are met can savings instruments succeed in mobilizing financial resources.

Consequently, in chapter I, this report addresses the economic and socio-political conditions in which housing-finance systems are operating, before specific problems of housing finance are discussed in chapter II. Chapter III deals with the crucial issues of the mobilization of resources. The development of lending policies is discussed, with special emphasis on lending to low-income households, in chapter IV. Some impacts on the institutional framework and necessary

Box 1. Balance sheet of a typical housing finance institution (with range of distribution)

Assets: (use of funds)	Liabilities: (sources of funds)
1. Fixed capital investments (buildings, equipment) 2 to 5%	1. Shareholders' funds (capital, reserves, retained profits) 3 to 10%
2. Short-term assets (cash, deposits with banks, payments due, commercial or public sector bills) 10 to 25%	2. Short-term liabilities (deposits, savings, bills due) 5 to 80%
3. Long-term assets (outstanding loan balances) 70 to 80%	3. Long-term funds (own bond issues, long-term saving-for-housing or retirement plans) 5 to 90%

adjustments of the legal framework are suggested in chapter IV.

■ **Publications Catalogue 1990/Audio-Visual Catalogue 1990, ii + 34 pp./ii + 9 pp., HS/194/90E**

The trilingual (English, French, Spanish) Publications Catalogue contains a short description in English of UNCHS (Habitat) publications and their availability in Arabic-, English-, French- , Russian- and Spanish-language editions, length, HS and ISBN numbers. Entries are organized in eight categories (global issues and strategies, national policies and instruments, settlements management, financial resources, land management, infrastructure development and operation, housing production, and construction sector) plus title indexes in English, French and Spanish.

The Audio-Visual Catalogue is prefaced by information on how to obtain UNCHS (Habitat) videos and films. In this case the entries are listed in terms of reference numbers, with short descriptions of content followed by category (film and/or video), producer(s), format, length, colour, language(s) and year of issue.

■ **Shelter for All, ii + 29 pp., colour photographs, HS/195/90E, ISBN 92-1-131109-7**

This general introduction to the approaches towards meeting the goal of shelter for all by the year 2000 begins by pointing out that global shelter problems need global solutions. It goes on to stress that the Global Strategy for Shelter (GSS), while calling for a combination of international and national efforts, emphasizes that shelter goals can only be met by the individual efforts of each government acting in its own political, social, economic and cultural context.

The basic principles of the GSS are outlined, the most important operational principle being the "enabling" approach. The discussion of national shelter strategies involves assessing shelter needs and resources and linking shelter objectives to set policies.

Sections are devoted to reorganizing shelter delivery systems, mobilizing finance for shelter delivery, and producing and improving shelter. The concluding section summarizes the role of governments, international organizations and UNCHS (Habitat).

COURSES

CEMP

The Centre for Environmental Management and Planning (CEMP), a division of Aberdeen University Research and Industrial Services Ltd., is holding an 11th INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND MANAGEMENT from 8 to 21 July 1990, sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization. Emphasis will be on discussion groups. The first week will offer an introduction to EIA and environmental management, while the second will offer technical assessment, including the role of international agencies in EIA and environmental management and such specific impacts as water pollution, social impacts, hazardous waste disposal and liquid and solid waste. A simulation exercise runs throughout the Seminar.

The 5th INTENSIVE TRAINING COURSE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT will also take place at the University of Aberdeen, from 1 July to 21 September 1990. It has been designed to coincide with the above Seminar, and many of the topics covered in the Seminar will be developed in greater detail during the Course. The Course will include a number of site visits and a field trip of approximately six days.

(Further information from: CEMP, 23 St. Machar Drive, Old Aberdeen, AB2 1RY, Scotland, United Kingdom)

IIRS

The Human Settlement Analysis Group of the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, (IIRS), regularly offers courses in the application of remote sensing (aerial and satellite) for urban and regional planners, urban administrators and geographers.

Among the courses being offered in 1990 is a five-day WORKSHOP IN REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY, which will begin on 5 November. For policy-and decision-makers, other senior planners and administrators engaged in planning, it will update participants on satellite remote sensing, aerial photo-interpretation, photogrammetry and computer applications as applied to urban and regional studies. Operational case studies, demonstration of basic concepts, hands-on experience and the opportunity to read the literature and discuss problems with co-professionals and experts will all be provided.

(Further information from: Prof. Misra, Human Settlement Analysis Group, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, 4, Kalidas Road, P.O. Box No. 135, Dehra Dun-248 001. India)

ITCWRM (CEFIGRE)

The International Training Centre for Water Resources Management (ITCWRM) is offering some 24 training courses in English or French this year. The 1990 programme includes a series of courses of two- to four-week duration on urban water supply and sanitation and on environmental management.

A course on PLANNING OF TRAINING FOR WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 29 June 1990. It will cover identification of training needs, training of trainers, planning of training, and management of training centres.

The objectives of this course, which is focused on African and Middle East English-speaking countries, will be to familiarize participants with all four stages in general, and to deal in depth with planning of training so that participants can plan training programmes for their own employers by the end of the course.

Participants will be human resources managers, training centre managers, trainers of trainers and engineers involved in training.

Again in Nairobi, at the same time, there will be a course in OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES. Now that more care is being taken to inform rural people of the nature of new projects and to seek their participation in both the construction and the operation and maintenance of projects, this approach means a change of ideas, more training for local people, a simpler and quicker spare-parts service to give proper service to the rural population. The objectives of this course are to analyse what went on in the past, decide what should change and how to change it for the better. Managers and engineers responsible for the operation and maintenance of rural water supply schemes will take part.

Again in English, but at Sophia Antipolis, France, from 8 to 26 October 1990, a course on PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF URBAN SANITATION AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES is being held for Asian, Middle East and English-speaking African and Mediterranean countries. Project planners, project managers and engineers are expected to participate.

This course will focus on:

- Overview of sanitation facilities, sewerage systems and treatment technologies;
- Pre-project planning activities, evaluation of existing institutional and manpower capabilities, need for the project;
- Project planning and management;
- Monitoring and follow-up of the project.

(Further information from: CEFIGRE, Sophia Antipolis, BP 113, 06561 Valbonne, France)

IUP

The Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris (IUP), University of Paris, Val de Marne, offers a programme of courses, workshops, directed studies leading to a DIPLOMA OF THE INSTITUTE after 18 months or a DIPLOMA in an in-depth study in urban affairs after 12 months, preparing for a doctorate.

Applications must be in by the first of September prior to the year of entrance.

(Further information from: Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris, Université de Paris-Val de Marne, Avenue du Général de Gaulle, 94010 CRETEIL CEDEX, France)

MIT

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is holding its BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL SHELTER WORKSHOP for two weeks in June 1990. The topic this year is "Changing Roles: Urban Management and Housing in the Third World". It is directed towards both experienced practitioners and those interested in urban development issues, be they from international agencies, government authorities, or professionals. The first week will be the seminar, followed by technical workshops.

(Further information from: Nabeel Hamdi, Reinhard Goethert; Seminar Directors, The Biennial International Shelter Workshop at MIT, MIT, Room N52-491, Cambridge, MA 02139, U.S.A.)

OXFORD POLYTECHNIC

The Disaster Management Centre of the Oxford Polytechnic offers a DISASTER MANAGEMENT RESIDENTIAL WORKSHOP, to be held from 17 June to 21 July 1990. Though the Workshop lasts for five weeks, participants may wish to attend for shorter periods to suit their specific needs and time constraints.

Two parallel themes will be followed: **Integrated Disaster Management** and **Development of Local Training in Disaster Management**. Both groups will follow a common series of inputs and actions, but will divide to undertake specific tasks under the management or training themes. In the first week, for example, the management team will focus on risk assessment and disaster planning. The training team will focus on strategies for training in education in disaster planning.

(Further information from: The Secretary, Disaster Management Centre, Oxford Polytechnic, Department of Architecture, Headington, Oxford, OX3 0BP, United Kingdom)

The Centre for Development and Environmental Planning (CENDEP) will conduct a TRAINING WORKSHOP ON URBAN LAND AND HOUSING, to be held at Oxford from 24 September to 7 December 1990.

This Workshop will review recent efforts by public-sector agencies to acquire, manage and develop urban land directly or through others, such as the private, informal or voluntary sectors. It will then identify and assess the potential relevance to specific cases of innovative policies and procedures to stimulate the supply of land and housing affordable to the urban majority. The Workshop is divided into two interacting modules (on land and housing) with a period of independent directed study in the middle and at the end of the programme. The emphasis throughout is on practical issues, and extensive use is made of case studies and visits.

(Information from: CENDEP, Oxford Polytechnic, Department of Architecture, Headington, Oxford, OX3 0BP, United Kingdom)

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

DAG

The Development Administration Group (DAG) of the University of Birmingham offers a NINE MONTH (October-June) DIPLOMA PROGRAMME, with two core courses in the first term followed by two further specialist courses. All students take the core courses — government, administration and management: issues in social and economic change — plus specific courses for the respective diplomas in development administration, development management, information management for development, and local government management.

Those whose diploma work is of Masters standard in at least three courses may apply for admission to complete the MASTER requirements by writing a dissertation (to be completed within six months of the examinations) and undertaking the study of research methods necessary for its preparation.

DAG also offers short courses for administrators from overseas: local government finance, planning and management of rural development, and management of urban development. Readers may still apply for the latter course in 1990, to be held from 20 September to 13 December.

The main focus of the MANAGEMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT Course is on the problems of management presented by cities and large towns in the developing countries. The Course emphasizes:

- The development of management capacity and the role of the manager as a major contributor to achieving more effective urban development;
- The analysis of dominant urban policy issues which are emerging in response to the economic and resource characteristics of third-world cities, including discussion of solutions being proposed;
- Appropriate management technology: techniques for improved management within available resources;
- The British experience: drawing on local government, urban development corporations, and the new town corporations.

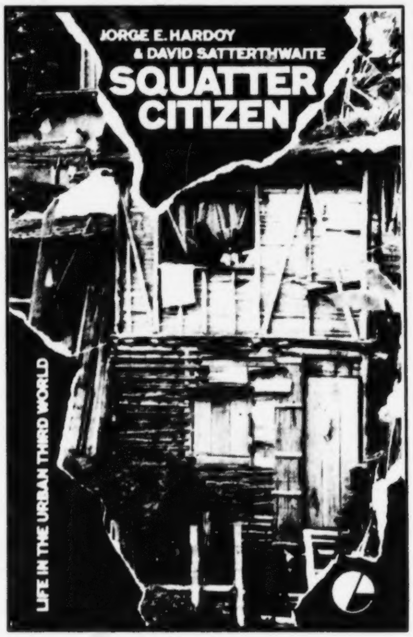
(Further information from: Development Administration Group, Institute of Local Government Studies, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham, BI5 2TT, England. Telephone: 021-414 5033. Cables: Inlogov, Birmingham, United Kingdom)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

■ **Jorge E. Hardoy and David Satterthwaite, Squatter Citizen: Life in the Urban Third World** (Earthscan Publications Ltd., 3 Endsleigh Street, London, WC1H 0DD, 1989), ix + 374 pp.; tables, boxes, notes and references, suggested further reading, index, ISBN 1-85383-020-8

This book contains work on four main topics: "popular settlements" and the problems faced by their inhabitants, the links between housing and health, a series of national assessments on housing, land and settlement policies, and the present and potential role of small and intermediate-sized urban centres in national, regional and rural development. These are presented in nine chapters, an introduction and an epilogue with more detailed examples in boxes, e.g., "the Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi, Pakistan" or "Factors which can encourage a more decentralized pattern of urban development".



This book describes the development of third-world cities — both "legal" and "illegal", inappropriate and ineffective governmental intervention, the ways in which the poor find housing, environmental problems, recent and current trends in urbanization and their implications for the urban future — not only in large cities but smaller urban centres and rural areas.

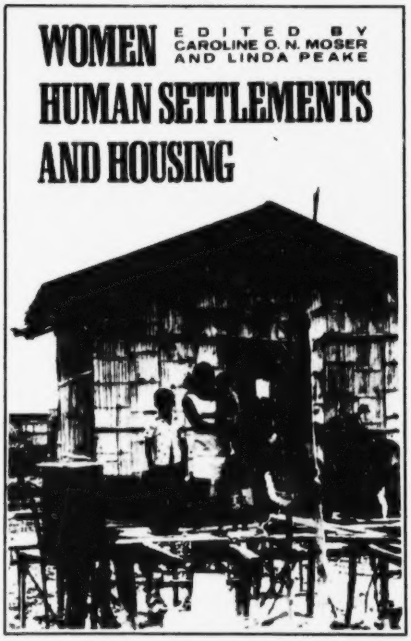
Aimed at the general rather than specialist reader, it shows how misleading the "rural/urban" distinction is, and questions whether the so-called urban bias has indeed helped the urban poor. The authors point out that the urbanization process is not the problem, but a reflection of economic development. "The main causes of the problems which accompany it are inadequate and inappropriate responses both from governments and from aid agencies."

Of public-private sector sharing of responsibilities, they note that "the private sector is made up of low-income citizens and their community organizations and the non-profit professional groups who pioneer new ways of working with them" (as in the Orangi Pilot Project example).

Similarly, a recent study by the Kenyan NGO, the Mazingira Institute, pointed to the importance for most Nairobi households of food they grow or produce themselves, what Richard Stren terms the "ruralization of the cities".

Hardoy and Satterthwaite suggest that the role of government should be "more activist, more developmental, more decentralized, more representative and more supportive of citizens' efforts". That of aid is to support national governments in their task of building the capacity and competence of urban governments and the national agencies working with them, to make basic investments, increase locally-generated revenue and manage and maintain urban areas. "Strategies by which governments support the efforts of the true builders of their cities, adapted to each culture and society [will] help initiate more effective and appropriate responses to contemporary problems in third world cities."

■ **Caroline O.N. Moser and Linda Peake (eds.), Women, Human Settlements and Housing** (Tavistock Publications, 1987) x + 222 pp.; list of contributors, bibliography, name and subject indexes, ISBN 0-422-61980-9 (softbound)


WOMEN
EDITED BY CAROLINE O. N. MOSER AND LINDA PEAKE
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND HOUSING

The book focuses on women because, although housing and infrastructure play a central role in their lives, that fact tends to be ignored in the planning of housing. "Through the examination of the relationship between gender and housing, the purpose of this book is also to contribute to the debate on the importance of housing and human settlements, not only as an economic relation but also a social relation..."

The conceptual framework of the book is set out in the first chapter, which shows how stereotypes of family structure fail to take account of women's triple role (reproductive,

productive and community management) and of the increasing number of women-headed households. The case studies which follow (from Africa, Asia and Latin America) show ways in which low-income women are increasingly participating in housing and human settlement projects and making their needs heard by policy-makers and planners. They are presented in order of the project cycle and describe women's experience both in self-help "bottom-up" efforts and "top-down" sites-and-services and upgrading projects.

In their conclusion, "What hope for the future?", the editors conclude that, unfortunately "the housing projects discussed in this book are not widely replicable", and may well prove to be exceptions to the rule. However, there are some signs of hope. The change of emphasis in the Kirillapone project (in Colombo, Sri Lanka), for example, demonstrates a flexible approach to planning more characteristic of small NGO projects than of either large government or bilateral-aid programmes. Of the case studies in this book, only in the San Judas Project (Managua, Nicaragua) was the empowerment of women an explicit objective; elsewhere, as in the Dandora Sites and Services projects (Nairobi, Kenya), women may have been included to achieve project efficiency.

Analysis of the case studies also reveals that women have three main strategic gender needs: security, safety and the abolition of the sexual division of labour. To gain the first, women need to acquire tenancies or ownership rights to land; to gain the second, they need an environment free from fear of male abuse of themselves and their dependants. These needs seem to have been rarely met, yet it does appear that conventional assumptions about the sexual division of labour are gradually changing.

The editors conclude, "Clearly educating men about the importance of women's participation is essential if a more equitable division of labour between the sexes is to be achieved and women are to satisfy their strategic gender needs."

■ **R.A. Obudho and Constance C. Mbianga (eds.), Slum and Squatter Settlements In Sub-Saharan Africa: Towards A Planning Strategy (Praeger, 1988), xvi + 424 pp.; tables, figures, bibliography, index, about the editors and contributors, ISBN 0-275-923096**

This reader points out some of the problems to be evaluated and possible strategies of evaluation in looking at the slum and squatter settlements in Africa. Margaret Peil, for example, examines the evidence of various countries, especially Sierra Leone, that landlords and landladies are much less exploitative than is asserted; she sees them as providing an essential service for the urban poor. She also notes that State controls do more to increase the housing shortage than to increase quality in urban society.

A. Graham Tipple maintains that unrealistically low rents resulting from government controls are responsible for the degraded conditions of low-cost housing areas in Kumasi, Ghana. He sees the most effective role for the Government would be upgrading by emphasizing self-help.

In the Portuguese-speaking capitals of Maputo, Mozambique, and Luanda, Angola, communities have been building their houses, with the Government providing services and infrastructure, as detailed in an article by Maria Clara Mendes. Since independence, squatter settlements have increased with freedom of movement. This is in contrast with Namibia, where David Simon notes squatter settlements have been controlled by strict and coercive *apartheid* laws, while upgraded housing is too expensive for the poor. These are but a few of the insights to be gleaned from the over 20 chapters.

Also of interest is Edwin S. Segal's view that rural patterns tend to be replicated in the urban areas — with a high level of agricultural squatting which helps to feed the population in Dar- es-Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania.

In the concluding chapter, the editors point out the positive impact of the housing sector on economic development — by providing employment, a place to work, a source of rental income, and other economic benefits. They say that planning strategies must be supported by the informal education of the urban poor in order to encourage their participation, and add that "the urban planning policy that can slow the process of squatter and slum settlements growth must be done from below rather than from above and must begin first in both rural and urban informal sectors."

JOURNALS

■ **Appropriate Technology, vol. 16, No. 3 (December 1989)**

This issue of the journal contains an article, "Peruvian feat of clay" by Flor de Maria Monzon, in which slum dwellers' use of compressed earth blocks (*tapiales*) is seen as a balance between traditional and modern methods, present realities and future aspirations. The inhabitants note the cheapness, speed, and labour-saving qualities of *tapiales*. Though they recognize that adobe may be better, they have chosen *tapiales* in what they see as temporary structures — even given the risk of collapse.

■ **CHF Newsbriefs, vol. xxi, No. 4 (November 1989)**

The Co-operative Housing Foundation in its newsletter notes economic benefits of the co-operative approach in "Microenterprise loans promote economic growth and job creation in Honduras", and welcomes suggestions for a demonstration project on activities designed to improve the environmental quality of informal sectors, how such activities came to be, the role of local residents and of outside agents, finance mechanisms used, and an analysis of their success or failure. Please write to CHF, P.O. Box 91280, Washington, D.C. 20090-1280, United States of America.

■ **Health For All When A Disaster Strikes: Health Emergency Preparedness And Response In African Countries**

This World Health Organization (WHO) journal introduces the Regional Centre for Emergency Preparedness, situated in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Issue No. 1 of its sister journal **The Ark: The African Bulletin On Health Emergency Preparedness and Response**, appeared in May 1989 and covered 35 news items on health emergency in Africa.

Further information on both from: WHO/EPR Panafrican Centre, P.O. Box 3050, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

■ Source, vol. 1, No. 2 (September 1989)

This United Nations Development Project (UNDP) journal opens with a note by the Chairman of the Collaborative Council on a framework for global co-operation beyond the first "Water Decade". Among the articles are a Decade update, in which a WHO study notes encouraging trends, and another on a Government of Malawi/UNDP/World Bank project in which the use of handpump caretakers, often women, keeps the water flowing and reduces maintenance costs substantially.

■ Third World Planning Review, vol. II, No. 3 (1989)

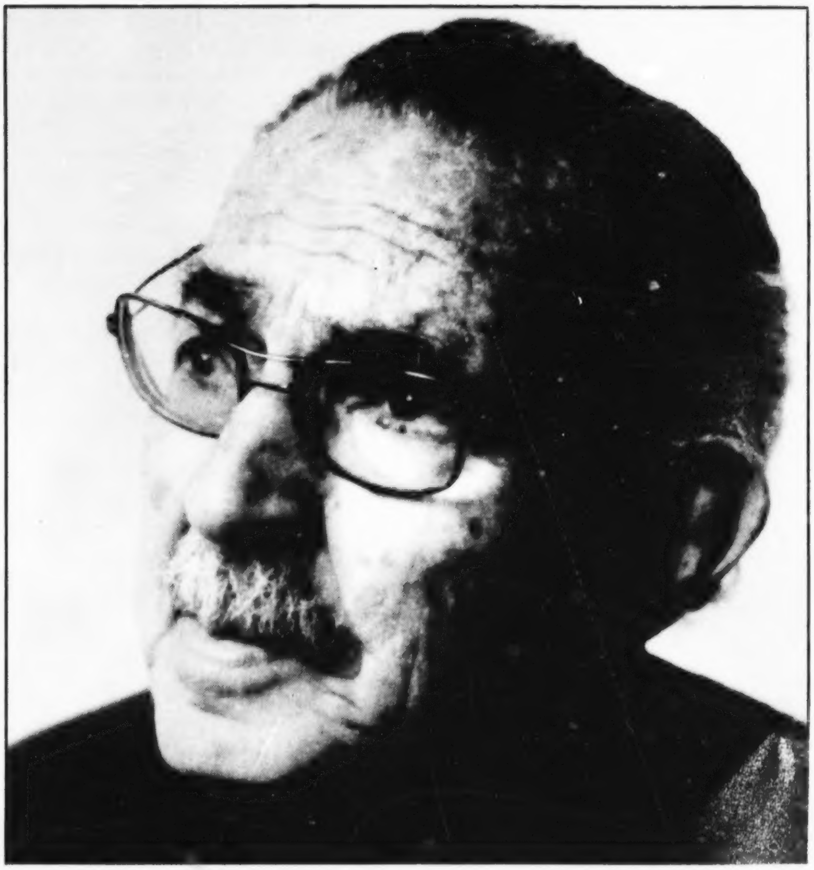
In "Transferring the urban land pooling/readjustment (LP/R) technique to the developing countries of Asia", R.W. Archer considers the issue of how to encourage and assist the governments of the developing countries of Asia to introduce the LP/R technique in order to improve the development of their cities. He outlines the need to facilitate land assembly for urban development and then explains the nature of the LP/R technique, its advantages and its requirements. The third part of the article discusses the Indonesian and Nepalese experience in adopting the technique, while the fourth outlines the key elements that could/should be adopted by developing countries, and then proposes measures that can be used to encourage and assist the wider adoption and use of the technique.

HASSAN FATHY, 1900-1989

We have learned with sorrow of the death of Hassan Fathy, world- renowned architect, artist, and author. Master architect Hassan Fathy died in Cairo on 1 December 1989, at the age of 89.

He was one of the first recipients of the UNCHS "Habitat Scroll of Honour", receiving the award on World HABITAT Day 1989 as noted in the previous issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS. Recipient of the Chairman's Award of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA) in 1980 "in acknowledgement of his life-long contribution and commitment to architecture in the Muslim world", he donated his entire collection of drawings and writings to AKAA in 1988. His other honours include the International Union of Architects Gold Medal and the Egyptian Government's National Prize for Arts and Letters.

Famous for his work with traditional construction methods and the use of mud-brick and other natural materials, Hassan Fathy was an advocate of their use by the poor. His *Building with the People*, first published in 1960 and since translated into 22 languages, has influenced many to practise an architecture based on the social and cultural identity of the users. Thus his influence extends far beyond Egypt, challenging and encouraging all those who wish to improve the housing of the poor to take into account their spiritual, artistic and social life and heritage.



Hassan Fathy, the Egyptian architect and poet, who resolutely defended the virtues of "cultural authenticity" and defined culture as "the interaction between the intelligence of the human being and our particular environment. Culture results from the ability to satisfy our needs, physical and spiritual, within a given place." Photo credit: AKAA, Geneva

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

SOUTH EAST ASIA INTERNATIONAL BUILDING EXPOSITION, Singapore, 16- 19 May 1990
(Information from: Cahners Exposition Group, 1 Maritime Square #13-02, World Trade Centre, Singapore 0409)

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FOR WASTE DISPOSAL, SEWAGE SYSTEMS, REFUSE, RECYCLING, CITY CLEANING, STREET MAINTENANCE AND WINTER ROAD SERVICE, Munich, Federal Republic of Germany, 22-26 May 1990
(Information from: Münchener Messe- und Ausstellungsges. mbH, Messegelände, Postfach 12 10 09, D-8000 München 12, Federal Republic of Germany)

International Union of Architects (UIA), XVIIth UIA CONGRESS ON THE THEME "CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY", Montreal, Canada, 27 May-1 June 1990
(Information from: Architecture 1990, 1825 ouest, boulevard René- Levesque, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3H 1R4)

ASIA'S INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS EXHIBITION, Singapore, May 1990
(Information from: Interfama Trade Fairs Ltd, 1 Maritime Square #13-02, World Trade Centre, Singapore 0409)

JUNE

INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION EXHIBITION, Hong Kong, 9-12 June 1990
(Information from: Cahners Exposition Group, Suite 1507 Shun Tak Centre, 200 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong)

International Federation of Surveyors, XIX CONGRESS, Helsinki, Finland, 10-19 June 1990
(Information from: XIX FIG Congress, Box 184, 00101 Helsinki, Finland)

INTERNATIONAL WELDING AND WELDED CONSTRUCTIONS FAIR, "ANTICORROSION": INTERNATIONAL MATERIALS PROTECTION AND INDUSTRIAL FINISHING EXHIBITION, Zagreb, Yugoslavia, 11-16 June 1990
(Information from: Zagrebacki Velesajam, Avenija Borisa Kidrica 2, YU-41021 Zagreb, Yugloslavia)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The Biennial International Shelter Workshop at MIT, CHANGING ROLES? URBAN MANAGEMENT AND HOUSING IN THE THIRD WORLD, Massachusetts, U.S.A., June 1990
(Information from: Nabeel Hamdi, Reinhard Goethert; Seminar Directors, The Biennial International Shelter Workshop at MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Room N52-491, Cambridge, MA 02139, U.S.A.)

CAD/CAM, CAD/CAM AND ROBOTS EXHIBITION, Toronto, Canada, June 1990
(Information from: Reed-Macgregor Exhibitions, 800 Denison St., Unit 7 Markham, Ontario, Canada L3R 5M9)

International Sociological Association (ISA) Working Group "Housing and the Built Environment" ..., INTERNATIONAL HOUSING RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON "HOUSING DEBATES AND URBAN CHALLENGES", Paris, France, 3-6 July 1990
(Information from: CILOG - Plan Urbain, 64 rue de la Fédération, 75015 Paris, France)

FIFTEENTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON WATER POLLUTION RESEARCH AND CONTROL, Kyoto, Japan, 30 July-3 August 1990
(Information from: Japan Society of Water Pollution Research, Yotsuya New Mansion, 12 Honshiocho Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160, Japan)

JULY

International Sociological Association (ISA) Working Group "Housing and the Built Environment" ..., INTERNATIONAL HOUSING RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON "HOUSING DEBATES AND URBAN CHALLENGES", Paris, France, 3-6 July 1990
(Information from: CILOG - Plan Urbain, 64 rue de la Fédération, 75015 Paris, France)

FIFTEENTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON WATER POLLUTION RESEARCH AND CONTROL, Kyoto, Japan, 30 July - 3 August 1990
(Information from: Japan Society of Water Pollution Research, Yotsuya New Mansion, 12 Honshiocho Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160, Japan)

AUGUST

ANNUAL CONFERENCE URBAN AND REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION (URISA), "INFORMATION—THE CURRENCY OF THE FUTURE", Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 12-16 August 1990
(Information from: URISA Program Representatives: Libby Clapp, 600 E. 4th St., Charlotte, NC 28202-2860, U.S.A., or Laurel McKay, Alberta LRIS, 10009 108th St., 910 Edmonton, Canada T5J 3C5)

International Society of City and Regional Planners, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE CITY: CITIES - POLLUTION - HEALTH AND WELL-BEING, Warsaw, Poland, 25-30 August 1990
(Information from: AIU-ISoCaRP, Mauritskade 23, 2514 HD, The Hague, The Netherlands)

Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC), Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, 16TH WEDC CONFERENCE ON THE THEME "INFRASTRUCTURE FOR LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES", Hyderabad, India, 27-31 August 1990
(Information from: Ms. Rowena Steele, WEDC, Loughborough University of Technology, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, U.K.)

SEPTEMBER

INSTITUTION OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, Glasgow, U.K., 4-6 September 1990
(Information from: Mrs Lavinia Gittins, The Institution of Water and Environmental Management, 15 John Street, London, WC1N 2EB, U.K.)

Government of India/UNDP, A GLOBAL CONSULTATION ON SAFE WATER AND SANITATION FOR THE 1990S, New Delhi, India, 10-13 September 1990
(Information from: Ms. Eirah Gorre-Dale, Information Co- ordinator, Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, UNDP, 16 avenue Jean-Trembley, Petit-Saconnex, CH-1209 Geneva, Switzerland, or the Resident Representative, UNDP, P.O. Box 3509, 55 Lodi Estate, 110003 New Delhi, India)

AQUATECH INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION FOR WATER TECHNOLOGY, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 10-14 September 1990
(Information from: Industrial Presentations (Europe) B.V., Europaplein 8, NL-1078 GZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

V.V.S. - INTERNATIONAL HEATING, PLUMBING, SANITATION AND ENERGY TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION, Stockholm, Sweden, 17-22 September 1990.
(Information from: Stockholmsmässan AB, Mässvägen 1, Alvsjö, S- 12580 Stockholm, Sweden)

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION FOR CITY PLANNING, Beijing, China, 23-28 September 1990
(Information from: Coastel International Investment Consultant Co., Room 301, Iuki Tower, 5-7 O'Brien Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong)

Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS' CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT, Tokyo, Japan, 25-28 September 1990
(Information from: Senator Tamako Nakanishi, Secretary-General, Japanese Parliamentarians' League on Habitat, 610 Sangiin Kaikan, Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100 Japan)

The CODATU Association "Conference on the Development and Improvement of Urban Transport"..., CODATU V: A FORUM ON URBAN TRANSPORT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, Sao Paulo, Brazil, September 1990
(Information from: Association CODATU, 23-25 avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 75775 Paris, Cedex 16, France)

Correspondence

UNCHS HABITAT NEWS is the official newsletter of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). It is published three times a year and distributed free of charge.

News of forthcoming events in human settlements which may be of international or regional interest is welcome, and should be forwarded to the Editor, UNCHS HABITAT NEWS.

We also welcome reprinting of any of the material in this publication, provided that the source is mentioned and one copy of the reprint is sent to the Editor.

All correspondence pertaining to the activities of UNCHS (Habitat) should be forwarded to the following address:

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Manuscripts submitted for publication in UNCHS HABITAT NEWS should be typed in double-line spacing on one side of the page only. They will be amended and included at the Editor's discretion. If articles are used, the author(s) will be credited. If they are not used, no correspondence will be entered into. In no case will originals of manuscripts, photographs or other artwork be returned.

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NGO News

NGO NEWS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (an insert to UNCHS HABITAT NEWS) serves as a forum for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with issues related to human settlements at the international and national levels. Most of the information contained in NGO NEWS is supplied by the Habitat International Coalition. The views of NGO NEWS do not necessarily reflect those of UNCHS (Habitat) or of the United Nations.

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Cover artwork

Front cover: Commemorative stamps from Kuwait, winning poster from Sri Lanka for World HABITAT Day 1989

Back cover: Logo for Global Strategy for Shelter

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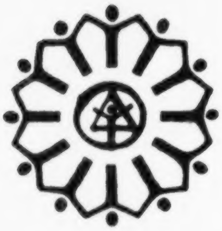

الأستراتيجية العالمية للمأوى حتى عام ٢٠٠٠

到公元 2000 年全球住房战略

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR SHELTER TO THE YEAR 2000

LA STRATEGIE MONDIALE DU LOGEMENT JUSQU'EN L'AN 2000

ГЛОБАЛЬНАЯ СТРАТЕГИЯ В ОБЛАСТИ ЖИЛЬЯ ДО 2000 ГОДА

ESTRATEGIA MUNDIAL DE VIVIENDA HASTA EL AÑO 2000

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